

PEWS News

Political Economy of the World-System

American Sociological Association

www2.asanet.org/sectionpews/

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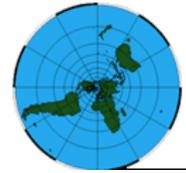
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A Few Words from the Chair

Let me first thank last year's team for organizing a wonderful set of panels and good cheer at the New York PEWS meeting this past August. The panels were very well attended and our collaborative efforts with the Environment and Marxist sections were a hit, including our reception with the latter at Rosie O'Grady's.

While last year's news on having the JWSR accepted as an ASA publication left some people a bit frustrated, we are now moving toward a resolution. As you all know, the vote to consider the JWSR as the official journal of the section is presently underway (I hope you all have voted on this issue). Completing the process of assessing our collective interest in the JWSR will contribute to meeting ASA requirements and will bring closure to the process in the coming months.

I also want to take a moment to share our thoughts on the Book Award this year. Jennifer Bickham Mendez and I read a number of outstanding books and now that it is over we can admit that we appreciated the opportunity to learn more about what our colleagues are doing. With a high rate of excellent choices, we decided to give two Book Awards and recognize one contribution with Honorable Mention. I include our brief comments on each awardee on page 2. Our Section is all the more

enriched because of these contributions to our field. Thanks to each of you.

On another note, we have set the panels for next year and I want to alert you to our upcoming mini-conference planned to follow during the afternoon of the last day of the meetings. With the aid of our in-coming chair, Jennifer Bair, I am in the process of planning a program for the mini-conference. At this point, and broadly speaking, I hope to highlight the focus of the meeting: *Worlds of Work* and thus have excluded such an emphasis in the formal panels for this year. The theme, as Arne L. Kalleberg, President-Elect, signals, is an opportunity for historical and comparative analyses of the complex configuration of what we call work and how it is experienced.

Finally, please plan to contribute and attend both the PEWS min-conference and panels this coming August (Friday-Monday, August 1-4, 2008) in Boston, Massachusetts. To give you all a heads-up, our panels are listed on page 5. As well, David Smith is organizing a number of sessions at the SSSP so keep alert to what opportunities open there as David and I are encouraging good cross-over of these two meetings.

Best for a wonderful fall,

Shelley Feldman



Report from ASA 2007, NYC

Book Awards

Winners

Derluguian, Georgi M. 2005. *Bourdieu's Secret Admirer in the Caucasus: A World-System Biography*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Sassen, Saskia. 2006. *Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Runner-Up

Podobnik, Bruce. 2005. *Global Energy Shifts: Fostering Sustainability in a Turbulent Age*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Georgi M. Derluguian offers us a masterful engagement with the conditions, actors and contingencies that shape Soviet and post-Soviet society to reveal the underbelly of power and social mobilization in the Caucasus. Moving between theoretical insight and methodological imagination, he draws us into the web of practices that frame state formation, political practice and ethnic nationalism through his personal biographical reflections of Musa Shanib. Engaging the complex and contentious terrain of charismatic individuals and collective actors, bureaucratic rigidities, demographic contingencies, dissident practice and global crises, he delivers a robust portrait of the imagination, opportunities and repercussions that characterized this critical moment in world history. In his telling, personal biography and ethnographic sensibilities intersect with global transformations to offer an interpretation of a rebellious movement that threatened, but did not sustain, a civil war that could have engulfed the entire Caucasus. Tracing the movement among three social classes – the nomenklatura, high officials of the Soviet state, national intellectuals who were bound to state employment, subordinated to its management, and dependent on its wages, and a residual class of sub-proletarians who, losing state protections, were readily mobilizable cadres -- Derluguian's portrait challenges us, as world system scholars, to appreciate ethnographic and biographic accounts for what they can reveal about the subtleties of power, class mobilization and long term, large scale change. *Bourdieu's Secret Admirer in the Caucasus: A World System Biography* is a fine example of scholarly imagination that reflects the possibilities and contingencies that animate our social and political landscape. [Note: This work also received the Norbert Elias Prize in Germany].

Saskia Sassen has done it again. In *Territory, Authority, Rights*, Sassen offers a broad and richly textured account

of the origins of globalization by tracing the assemblages that comprise the phenomenon we understand as globalization. Critically engaging the state-global nexus, Sassen specifies how state capacities have changed in the post-Bretton Woods period as signaled by the shift from legislative and judicial to executive power, and through new relations of authority and the privatization of power. She argues that these shifts are consequential for citizenship relations and rights, and for the unequal security of different collectivities to demonstrate how informal, non-state actors create new forms of deterritorialized citizenship through practices deeply embedded in a reconfigured world system. Sassen also explores the capabilities of the state and empire that have “jumped track” or become dislodged from their original organizing logic to be reconstituted in today's global era. In these ways, she systematically and carefully debunks the myth of globalization that pits the national against global to reveal the origins and complexities of what she terms denationalization. Rather than offering a snap-shot of a monolithic “global order,” Sassen makes legible for us a proliferation of globalizing dynamics, some of which date back to Medieval times and others reaching their “tipping point” in more recent periods, such as that exemplified by the Reagan and Thatcher decade of the 1980s. In *Territory, Authority, Rights*, Sassen carves out an analytical path that takes us through an almost mind-boggling array of scales and areas of inquiry with examples culled from diverse areas of social, political, and economic life -- court cases and political systems, the Internet, NGOs, and the politics of undocumented migrants – carefully showing how the dynamics of globalization have emerged and have come to transform politics, economies, and social practices in the world system.

Through a historical analysis of shifting systems of energy production, transportation and consumption, **Bruce Podobnik** presents us with an extremely suggestive empirical case for contemporary public debate. His book, *Global Energy Shifts*, clearly and systematically offers policy-makers ways to understand and develop strategies able to address the current energy crisis and develop and implement new sustainable energy technologies. By offering a meticulously supported argument based on an impressive variety of data sources, Podobnik engages World Systems theory in a way that promises to liberate it from the hallowed halls of the academy and also identifies the societal dynamics and geopolitical rivalries that have given rise to the emergence of new energy systems in ways that reveal how they are super-imposed on older energy regimes. In so doing he advances our understandings of this under-examined dimension of global energy changes and sheds light on how such dynamics might operate in the future.

2007-2008 Committees

Nominations committee (1 member ex officio, 3 members to be elected):

Chair (Tom Hall)

Member (Andrew Jorgenson)

Member (Wilma Dunaway)

Member (Jim Fenelon)

Book award committee (3 members ex officio):

Chair (Jennifer Bair)

Final year council (Ching Kwan Lee)

Final year council (Jennifer Bickham Mendez)

Paper award committee (3 members)

Chair (Shelley Feldman)

Second year council (Leslie Gates)

Second year council (Marina Karides)

Publication committee (editorial board):

First year council (Ho-Fung Hung)

Member (David Smith)

Member (Paul Ciccantel)

Student (Daniel Mattheson UC Irvine)

Membership committee

First year council (Greta Krippner)

Member (Paul Geller)

Member (Chris Dick)

Student (Scott Bird)

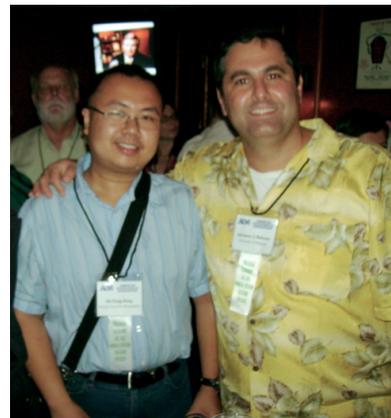
NYC Festivities!



Tom Hall celebrates a successful year as PEWS Chair with Steve Sanderson.



Timothy Moran buys Bob Ross a drink for 3 years of service on the PEWS council.



Salvatore Babones and Ho-Fung Hung at Rosie O'Grady's.

JWSR Updates

New JWSR Editorial Team

by Chris Chase-Dunn

The *Journal of World-Systems Research (JWSR)* has new editors and a new home. Edward Kick and Andrew Jorgenson at North Carolina State University are the new co-editors and they will take the reins on November 1. The ASA PEWS Section Publications Committee issued a call for editorship proposals in November of 2006 and two excellent proposals were received. The 2006/2007 PEWS Publications Committee was chaired by Marina Karides (Florida Atlantic) and the members were Chris Chase-Dunn (University of California-Riverside), Tom Hall (DePauw), Cynthia Hewitt (Morehouse), John W. Meyer (Stanford), Saskia Sassen (Chicago), Kathleen Schwartzman (Arizona) and Immanuel Wallerstein (Yale). In August of this year the PEWS Publications Committee chose the Kick-Jorgenson team. The previous co-editors, Chris Chase-Dunn and Wally Goldfrank, would like to thank those who worked hard on *JWSR* since its founding in 1995, especially Salvatore Babones, Eric Titolo, Tom Reifer, Ken Barr and Andrew Jorgenson.



Chris Chase-Dunn introduces the new JWSR editors at the PEWS business meeting in NYC.

JWSR Subvention

- \$10 increase recommended regular members
- \$3 increase for student members
- \$3 increase for low-income members

Graduate Student News

There are two important news items for grad students to be aware of. First, the PEWS Council has voted to replace the dissertation award with a **BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD**. The intent is to help graduate students' work be recognized before entering the job market. Thanks to Matthew Mahutga for suggesting this proposal.

Second, the PEWS Council authorized four **GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS** of \$200 each for students

attending the Andre Gunder Frank's Legacy of Critical Social Science (April 11-13, 2008). More information on the conference is available at:

<http://www.worldhistorynetwork.org/dev/agfrank-conference.htm>. Deadline for abstracts is Nov 1.

Please send any graduate student concerns or interests to rclausen@uoregon.edu.

Conference Updates

1) 2008 PEWS Spring Conference announcement:

The XXXIInd Political Economy of the World-System (PEWS) Conference will take place 24-26 April, 2008, at Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT. The organizers of the PEWS Conference invite papers relating to the theme, "Flows of People and Money across the World-System."

2) Andre Gunder Frank's Legacy of Critical Social Science conference will be held April 11-13, 2003 at the University of Pittsburgh. The announcement can be found at <http://www.worldhistorynetwork.org/dev/agfrank-conference.htm>.

3) Panels set for ASA 2008. The panels have been set for the next ASA meeting, to be held August 1-4, 2008 in Boston, Massachusetts. Start considering the following panels now for next year's meeting.

Emerging Peripheries: Brazil, Russia, India and China, Organizer and Chair, Paul Gellert, pgellert@utk.edu

Archive and Field: Situating long-term, large-scale change, Organizers, Jon Shefner (and Chair), jshefner@utk.edu and Shelley Feldman, rf12@cornell.edu

Militarization and the Security State, Organizer and Chair, Shelley Feldman, rf12@cornell.edu

Uneven ecological exchange in the contemporary world-economy

Organizer, Andrew Jorgenson, jorgensonandrew@hotmail.com

Joint Session with Marxism and Environment and Technology:

Roundtables, Laura McKinney, lamckinn@sa.ncsu.edu

4) Global Studies Association

New York City, Pace University, June 6- 8, 2008
www.net4dem.org/mayglobal

Saskia Sassen, Immanuel Wallerstein, Giovanni Arighi, Beverly Silver, Craig Calhoun, Bill Fletcher are all confirmed as plenary speakers. Please send proposal to Lauren Langman, (Llang944@aol.com) & Jerry Harris (gharris234@comcast.net) by March, 2008.

5) First ISA Forum of Sociology: Sociological Research and Public Debate Barcelona, Sept 5-8, 2008 http://www.isa-sociology.org/barcelona_2008/

RC 36 Alienation Theory and Research:

You are cordially invited to join us for the Barcelona meetings: Please send proposal (150-200 words) to the appropriate chair, and copy Lauren Langman (President RC 36) by Dec 20th.

ALIENATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY
Migration and Alienation
Devorah Kalekin-Fishman
dkalekin@construct.haifa.ac.il
Catherine de Wenden
dewenden@ceri-sciences-po.org

Alienation, the body and transcendence
Marty Prosono MProsono@MissouriState.edu

New directions in Alienation theory
Pirkkoliisa Aphonon
Pirkkoliisa.Ahponen@joensuu.fi,
Warren Goldstein wgoldste@mail.ucf.edu

Overcoming Alienation; Democratic Mobilizations in a Global Age
Knud Jensen knud@dpu.dk

Nationalism in a global world: Alienation or Empowerment
Lauren Langman Llang944@aol.com

Alienation and the Subaltern: Race and Class in a Globalized Economy
Ligaya McGovern Ligayako29@aol.com
Gerhard Schutte agschutte@rcn.com

From the Workplace to Cyberspace: Situating Alienation in the 21st Century.
Matt David mdavid@liverpool.ac.uk

(continued)

Conferences, cont'd

ISA Forum of Sociology:

RC02 - Economy and Society. The sessions organised by RC02 address the big themes of Sociology in 'Economy and Society' and addresses them through the lens of their relationship to public debate. The sessions address changing nature of global processes, transnational corporations, interlocking directorates, global plutonomy, the knowledge economy and the variations in the form of gender regimes as well as capitalism. Please send abstracts to the relevant Panel Chair by 10 December 2007.

Economic Sociology as Critique

Organiser: Andrew Sayer, Department of Sociology, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YD, UK. sayer@exchange.lancs.ac.uk

Responses to the Emerging Global Plutonomy

Organiser: Salvatore Babones, Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh, USA. sbabones@inbox.com

Varieties of Gender Regime; Varieties of Capitalism

Organisers: Karen A. Shire (University Duisburg-Essen, Germany) and Monika Goldmann (University of Dortmund, Germany). karen.shire@uni-duisburg-essen.de

The Knowledge Economy

Organisers: Joan Acker (Joan Acker, University of Oregon, USA), Susan Durbin (University of the West of England), Jennifer Tomlinson (University of Leeds, UK). Sue.Durbin@uwe.ac.uk

Open

Organiser: Alexius Anthony Pereira, National University of Singapore, Singapore socaap@nus.edu.sg

Politics and Interlocking Directorates

Organizers: Josep A. Rodríguez, Julián Cárdenas, and Anna Ramon (Department of Sociology, University of Barcelona). annaramon@ub.edu

Transnational Corporations: Villains or Heroes of Globalization?

Organiser: Judith Clifton, Departamento de Economía, Universidad de Cantabria. judith.clifton@unican.es

Additional co-sponsored session: The 'Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy': Critical Perspectives

Organiser: The Open University, UK. L.Lavidow@open.ac.uk

World System Activism

The PEWS Council has authorized the new Chair, Shelley Feldman, to investigate future PEWS participation in World Social Forum events. This will be an information gathering conversation with ASA representatives to determine the potential options for PEWS involvement at WSF gatherings. No decisions will be made without future discussion among the PEWS membership.



Recent Publications

Articles

Almeida, Paul D. 2007. "Defensive Mobilization: Popular Movements against Economic Adjustment Policies in Latin America." *Latin American Perspectives* 34(3): 123-139.

Gulick, John. 2007. "Russo-Chinese Energy Cooperation: Stepping Stone from Strategic Partnership to Geo-Economic Integration?" *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 48(2-3): 203-233.

Ho-fung Hung. 2007. "Changes and Continuities in the Political Ecology of Popular Protest: Mid-Qing China and Contemporary Resistance" *China Information*. Vol. 21, No.2

Ho-fung Hung 2007. "The Rise of China: Harbinger of a New Global Order, or In the Footsteps of Pre-Crisis Japan and the Asian Tigers?" *Japan Focus*. February 9, 2007.

Ho-fung Hung. 2008. "Rise of China and the Global Overaccumulation Crisis." *Review of International Political Economy*. Vol. 15, No.2

Books

Global Democracy and the World Social Forums (Paradigm Publishers) was written by a 12-member author collective including several PEWS members-- including Christopher Chase-Dunn, Marina Karides, and Jackie Smith. The book aims to introduce a North American audience of students and informed publics to the World Social Forums, and it is a short and readable overview of developments over the 7 year history of the WSF as well as key debates. It also offers analysts comparisons across diverse social forums and an analysis of how ongoing debates and tensions help fuel the dynamism of the WSF process. Proceeds from the book support Grassroots Global Action and the US Social Forum process.

Teaching Resources

Thank you to Professor Georgi Derluguian (Northwestern) for sharing the syllabus for his course "**Global History I: How did the World-System emerge?**" Below is the abbreviated version, please contact Professor Derluguian for the syllabus in its entirety: gderlug@northwestern.edu.

Course description. The goal is to teach you how to think about humanity in geographically big, historically deep, and systematic-evolutionary categories. The first part of Global History is a survey of various evolutionary branches, the "full house" of social possibilities in S.J. Gould's expression, from the emergence of foraging bands and simple farming villages to the great agrarian empires (aka "civilizations"). Among the key questions: What did it really take to start growing one's bread; why happened when other societies opted for breeding and following their animals; who and why built pyramids, giant statues, or great walls; what kind of democracy was Ancient Greece; how Islam helped to reconstruct the Eastern Roman Empire; or how China became the first market economy. It ultimately leads us to the question: How and why did the West prevail over the rest? In Part II of this course, during Winter, you will explore how our contemporary world emerged from the ashes of European imperial enterprise and what you may expect from the 21st century.

Required readings:

- William H. McNeill *The Rise of the West. A History of the Human Community*. University of Chicago Press, 1963 (or any edition in any language)
- Perry Anderson *Passages from Antiquity to Feudalism*. London, Verso, 1974
- Janet L. Abu-Lughod *Before European hegemony: the world system A.D. 1250-1350*. Oxford University Press, 1989
- Jared Diamond *Guns, Germs and Steel*. Norton, 2003
PREFERABLY BUT NOT NECESSARILY THE EXPANDED EDITION WITH A CHAPTER ON JAPAN
- Timothy Earle *How Chiefs Come to Power*. Stanford, 1997.
- You need TWO historical atlases by the famous Colin McEvedy *The New Penguin Atlas of Ancient History*, and *The New Penguin Atlas of Medieval History*. London, Penguin.
- *Rapa-Nui*, the feature film produced by Kevin Costner and directed by Kevin Reynolds, to be shown in class, but you can also buy or rent it.

(continued)

Syllabus, cont'd

KWANZA (FIRST part). THE INVENTION OF SOCIETY

- 26/IX Introduction. Of cabbages (=staples) and kings (=social complexity), and the politics of spelling daughter.
- 1 /X "May you toil in sweat!" The misfortunate road to agriculture.
- 3/X Our Happily Barbarian Ancestors: How Did Village Communities Work for the Last Ten Thousand Years.

MBILI (Part TWO). HOW CHIEFS COME TO POWER

- 8/X The mystery of "lost civilizations" made (sadly) transparent
- 10/X Come watch the film Rapa-Nui

TATU (Part THREE). CIVILIZATIONS: TRIBUTARY SIPHONS OR COMMANDING HEIGHTS?

- 17/X From "Caging Effect" (Michael Mann) to the Rise of Imperial Civilizations. Or, Why build pyramids for those guys up there?
- 22/X The Pillars of Power: bureaucrats with writing pens, warriors with swords (and whips), temples with rituals, royal palaces with conspicuous consumption (arts and cuisine).
- 24/X Variations in ancient civilizations: the trade civilizations of Indus valley and the island of Crete (Atlantis), the warrior states of the Aztecs and Scythians.
- 29/X Let's now watch Jared Diamond.

NNE (Part FOUR). MUTATIONS IN THE WESTERN PERIPHERY

- 31/X Iron + Islands + Wine and Olives = Greek Democracy.
- 5/XI Why did the Hoplites need to attend Gymnasium and Academium?
- 7/XI The inexorable slide from Republic to Empire: Athenian navy — Hellenistic conquest of Asia — Pax Romana.
- 12/XI The Fall of (overextended and top-heavy) Roman Empire. But what about Byzantium?
- 14/XI The Western Mutation of Feudalism: Humpty-Dumpty in a state of "optimal fragmentation".

TANO (FIVE). THE THREE ASIAN 'WHEELS OF COMMERCE' (Fernand Braudel)

- 19/XI The Legalistic Rational Realm of Islam
- 21/XI India, the pivot of early globalization.
- 26/XI "A Buddhist Road to Capitalism" (Randall Collins).
- 28/XI Globalization from the Far West: the capitalist world-economy

Job Announcements

Penn State Harrisburg Instructor/Assistant Professor of Social Sciences School of Behavioral Sciences and Education

Instructor/Assistant Professor of Social Sciences:

Penn State Harrisburg seeks applications for a fixed-term, non-tenure-track position in Social Sciences beginning Fall Semester 2008. Teaching responsibilities include four courses per semester and support for the College's student-centered approach to education.

About the School: The School of Behavioral Sciences and Education is the largest school within Penn State Harrisburg, with approximately 60 full-time faculty members, several faculty members are actively involved in the University's Children, Youth and Families Consortium. The College's close proximity to the state capital provides easy access to Washington DC, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York City with exciting opportunities for both professional and personal enrichment. Additional information about the College and the School can be found at www.hbg.psu.edu and at www.hbg.psu.edu/bsed/.

Qualifications: An earned doctorate in sociology, community psychology, or human development & family studies, or related field is preferred. Preference will be given to candidates with a philosophy of scholarship oriented toward issues of social justice. Responsibilities include teaching at the undergraduate level, and graduate level if candidate has an earned doctorate. The School offers baccalaureate programs in Applied Behavioral Science and Sociology and an M.A. program in Community Psychology & Social Change. The candidate should be prepared to teach courses in two or more of the following areas: criminology/deviance, race/ethnicity, stratification, quantitative and qualitative methods, environment, and international studies.

To Apply: Please submit a letter of application specifically addressing the position responsibilities and qualifications, a current curriculum vitae; copies of graduate transcripts; and a list of three professional references, including names, mail and e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers. Application deadline is November 12, 2007, however, review will continue until the position is filled. Send all materials to: Chair, Behavioral Sciences Fixed Term Search Committee, c/o Mrs. Dorothy J. Guy, Director of Human Resources, Penn State Harrisburg, Box #LS-ASA-WS, 777 W. Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057-4898. Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.