

# PEWS News

*Political Economy of the World-System*

*American Sociological Association*

[www2.asanet.org/sectionpews/](http://www2.asanet.org/sectionpews/)

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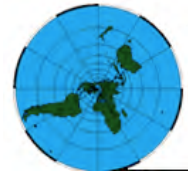
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## **Economic Growth Forum**

### Can Sociologists Be Neutral on a Moving Train? Professional Society Positions On Economic Growth

By Becky Clausen

The year 2007 witnessed important breakthroughs in the professional fields of the natural sciences. In addition to identifying 700 new species of organisms in Antarctica and the remnants of a large, birdlike dinosaur in Mongolia, natural scientists also discovered a voice of consensus among their colleagues concerning an often-overlooked area of research – the economy. Those who study the natural world most closely have taken a broader view of the threats that face ecological integrity, namely the impact of economic growth. These biologists have drafted position statements that recognize a fundamental conflict between economic growth and the conservation of biodiversity, taking a significant stance on issues of multidisciplinary relevance. Seven organizations have already approved related position statements, including The Wildlife Society and the Society for Conservation Biology (NA Section). The American Fisheries Society, American Society of Mammalogists, Ecological Society of America, Society for Range Management and others are considering similar proposals. These position statements clarify – for the public, the firm, and the policymaker – the trade-offs society faces between increasing production and consumption of goods and services and environmental protection.

Brian Czech, a wildlife biologist and position statement author, explains that the scientific community first needs to confront the fear that by taking positions on economic growth their professional societies will be deemed “advocacy organizations.” In *BioScience* (2007: 7), Czech makes it clear that, “The position taken by a professional society is designed to clarify the scientific evidence about an issue relevant to public policy. It may go so far as identifying alternative policy goals...and even policy tools. Clarifying science and identifying policy alternatives are a

far cry from advocacy.” In addition to citing numerous biological and ecological studies to support these positions, interdisciplinary scholars from the social sciences have offered complementary analyses that address issues of equity for the global South, incorporating considerations of race, class, and gender into the statements. For example, the Social Science Working Group of the Society for Conservation Biology qualified the position statement by adding that an opposition to economic growth in wealthy nations does not preclude necessary economic development in other regions due to the potential for redistribution.

The significant effort that fellow scientists and researchers have offered to address the issue of economic growth and sustainability begs an important question of our professional society: *Has the time come for ASA to consider a position statement on the fundamental conflict between continued economic growth and issues of ecological and social justice?*

This question is put forth by a collective of Sociology graduate students at the University of Oregon. As a first step in addressing the above question, this issue of PEWS News asked world-system theorists to consider the processes and concepts that would need to be addressed in a draft position statement on the conflict between economic growth and ecological and social justice. Understanding issues of global development, justice, and equity is incomplete without appreciating the modern world-system. If the fundamental dynamic of endless accumulation governs the world economy, as many suggest, then it seems reasonable that world-system theorists should engage in a discussion of this position statement. Tom Hall, Torry Dickinson, and Walda Katz-Fishman & Scott Jerome agreed to participate in the forum. These three PEWS members responded to the following question:

If the PEWS section was to draft a position statement on the conflict between economic growth and ecological and social sustainability, what concepts and considerations from a world-system perspective would need to be addressed?

Each of the scholars addressed a different angle of the question. Dickinson explained how the invisible layer of economic growth rests on the exploitation of global household labor. Hall addressed how a political-economic system based on constant expansion is incompatible with sustainability, using climate change as an example. Finally, Katz-Fishman and Scott reviewed the historical legacy of genocide and ecological destruction that characterizes the capitalist economic growth imperative. Based on the considerations offered by these participants, the UO graduate student collective requests that a PEWS working group consider drafting an economic growth position statement that represents a world-system analysis.

### **Thank you to our Forum Participants:**

Torry Dickinson, “The Upside Down-Backwards World: Reconsidering Economic Growth”  
Kansas State University

Tom Hall, “Inherent Contradictions Today”  
Depauw University

Walda Katz-Fishman and Jerome Scott, “Capitalism and Ecology: ending capitalism to save humanity and the planet”  
Project South, founders

## The Upside Down-Backwards World: Reconsidering Economic Growth

Torry Dickinson, Women's Studies, Kansas State University

For five centuries, the modern world-system has developed through two forms of economic growth, one which is revered and more visible and the other that is almost invisible and rarely acknowledged as significant. The invisible layer of economic growth is an integral part of global production, the market, and state governance. Economic growth of the visible layer of the world-economy, which involves competitive production that yields profits, depends on the indirect exploitation of labor in the hidden sphere of economic activity. The devalued bottom layer of the economy, which involves work that is organized by households and not by firms in the form of waged labor, has been the hidden part of global profit-makers' ability to create the public mirage of economic growth. Together these layers of work, organized by firms and the state and done by global labor, generated economic growth that produced devastating consequences for the world. Here I will explore this twin-engine of economic growth and consider that might be done to redefine the invisible and invisible layers and to generate healthy development.

The recognized portion of economic growth has depended on power-holders' ability to increase the indirect exploitation of labor in unequal household groupings just as much as it has been to engineer the direct exploitation of wage workers and the efficient conversion of natural resources into commodities. Household and community work are just as much a part of the world-system as visible elements of production and limited expansion or growth for "legal" pools of investors and managers and an rapidly growing barrage of "illegal" capitalists who use violence to acquire and sell drugs, weapons, organs, migrants, and sex workers and pornography. From the very beginning of the system, growth from global competition between accumulators required that firms and the state be able to shape male-dominated, heterosexual households' invisible, self-organized survival and mutual-care work, which "produced" potential workers and, more importantly, took care of the large numbers of unemployed people. Firms' and states' relatively successful attempts to restructure production and household work led to economic growth on the visible level. At the same time, economic growth (particularly that generated from the core) led to hunger, sometimes starvation, gender and racial violence, on going colonization, war, and death, especially in the periphery and also in the semi-periphery.

More visible economic growth comes from the widening and deepening of capitalist expansion through firms' production, market expansion, state engagement, and transnational organizational coordination. Profit-making, increases in firms' productivity, and is followed and celebrated on the business page, in stock market reports, in university business schools, in local chambers of commerce, and at global gatherings of the most powerful corporate collectivities and of those who wish to redistribute this "economic growth" to more firms, including in the periphery and semi-periphery. Up to now, economic security has been defined, in part, as nation-states and localities obtaining access to these wage-paying jobs and related consumer expansion benefits. This visible global production is typically defined as economic growth.

On a world scale, through the world-system's structural and cyclical changes, visible and invisible producers have witnessed the rise and fall of hegemonic powers and recolonization, the renewed generation of competitors and the redistribution of branches of industry, and changes in state involvement in the shaping of working-class households. Labor has become weaker from expectant consumerism and a general dependence on capitalist and state "benefactors" who promise but rarely deliver. The spread of environmental degradation has included the ongoing destruction of cultural and genetic diversity and the reconstitution of people as overlapping gender/sexuality, racial, class, and colonial groupings. To maintain themselves and gain short-term stability, laboring groups and subordinated nation-states have taken different routes. Some have employed the tactics of divide and conquer (a recontextualization of Mary Daly's words from *Gyn/Ecology*) to obtain more resources in the short- to medium-run (leading to more gender/sexuality, ethnic/racial and colonial divisions, often via violence and war). Others have pushed past ideologies of hate and the social filter of intersecting hierarchies, which have fueled the bonding of visible and invisible layers of economic growth, to create collective survival strategies, more inclusive visions, and new ways of relating to each other and to Earth.

The visible layer of economic growth rests on and assumes the presence of the invisible layer of growth that comes from household-organized work, including the domestic reproduction of working units, petty producing and marketing, redistributive economic transfers and reciprocity, unpaid work in civil society, and other types of work that women and men do. Visible and invisible economic growth layers are heavily gendered, but women and men are engaged in both forms of growth, although they are defined unequally by economic and political institutions of governance, including at the household level. And there are simultaneous inequalities in the ways that racial, colonial, and global divisions shape the intensity of groups' social participation in work and subsequent economic growth. In general, women's contributions to economic growth are highly devalued, even though they often have worked just as much as men in the visible sphere and they have done most of the invisible work.

The world-system's hidden source of economic growth and social stability is the diverse, unequal world-wide constellation of laboring households that fully, largely, half-way, or partially sustain themselves, eliminating or reducing the cost of securing employees. When working households cover the costs of their daily and generational reproduction, preparing household members for hire (with the hope that employers will call on them), these ethnic-class units are simultaneously taking care of themselves in self-sufficient ways and working for firms and the state daily (usually for no pay and or little pay), generating economic growth. When transnational firms reduce wages and states reduce transfer payments, they intensify households' invisible work and attempt to accelerate the economic growth that is coming from the invisible layer. It is important to see that these historic relations of networked households in localities and across borders often have become the basis for initiating new ways of thinking and new ways of living.

The world became upside down in successive shifts and cycles, as people's efforts to maintain their families and deepest relationships with others became defined as a source of global profit-making. Rather than placing value on humans and their relationships with each other and their environment, the system's power-holders placed emphasis on accumulation, hierarchy, the use of natural resources in production, and the seizing and exercising of power through arms and violence. The world was more than upside down: it was backwards in its values and ways of living, as humanizing aspects of personal relationships became defined as an invisible source of economic growth, and as a business-dominated order ignored human need, produced chronic hunger and sometimes starvation, and placed priority on obtaining higher and higher profit levels for a few.

Throughout the history of the expanding world-system, feminist analysts and change-makers have fought the way the world was turning upside down and backwards, away from relatively greater reproductive stability, which had been evident in even repressive class societies. The world-systems' early feminists noted, discussed, and resisted this imbalanced way of living, centuries before middle-class white feminists in the U.S. and England published treatises and denounced portions of some hierarchies. In 1851, at a mid-point in the system's likely history, the inclusive feminist and anti-racist Sojourner Truth argued that the world had been turned upside down and that women needed to turn it right side up ("A'int I a Woman?," speech). Much later, in a similar vein, Mariarosa Dalla Costa observed in 1995 that many women-inclusive movements call for "reproduction" to be emphasized once again, as they seek a de-emphasis on "production" (*Paying the Price*, Introduction). The daily and generational reproduction of working people has become part of production, and women largely have been given this unpaid and devalued job.

Reproduction and production form part of a whole, with changes in business being much more visible than changes in unequal structures of unpaid, household-organized work and the unseen work strategies of households, which create conditions that sustain. As part of their practices, accumulators work to reshape the ways that groups of households contribute to an economically driven society. Households also resist many of these pressures to change, but often the social forces are so great that many people succumb, although not always in a conscious way. Economic growth occurs because global accumulators made laboring people become their products, at least in significant ways. The world-system has yielded "economic growth" when accumulators changed the production of human reproductive "products"

in global society, as part of their efforts to generate lower-cost labor and recreate human beings into more advantageous groupings for capitalist producers and control-oriented repressive agencies. In a number of different ways in the zones and locations of the world-system, organizers of economic growth practices have demanded and pressured groups of households to assume more responsibility for sustaining economic growth. These profit-oriented and social control measures have pressured households to generate more non-waged income, increase household work hours and work intensity, create conditions that permit the reduction of local and global wage levels, extract natural resources in unsustainable ways, accept ideas and realities of cultural supremacy and/or subordination as normal, reinforce household boundaries and reduce community organizing, re-impose dependence on adult males through (hetero) sexism, produce more children as potential workers (in some areas), reduce their production of potential workers (in some areas), limit the ability of households to exit the system (in some areas), encourage the exit of households from the system (at least temporarily, in some areas), accept gluttony as normal (in some areas), accept chronic hunger and maybe even starvation as expected conditions (in some areas), and even invent methods to reduce the number of workers congregated in one area. Human and other natural life has suffered as a consequence of this dehumanization of household and family members, neighboring groups, and globally connected working people.

What are the ways forward? First, it is critical to think about and participate in efforts to redefine institutions that are connected to the most visible layers of work. Participation in change is one of the most important sources of knowledge. We will need to change these institutions that have been involved with visible “economic growth” if we are to create global and local relations that permit the emergence of sustainable societies that are economically, socially, politically, and culturally healthy. Second, we will need to think about and participate in change that takes inclusive knowledge and practices from household work and non-waged relations. This involves learning about change that is directed as transforming the invisible, devalued layer of economic growth and using this as a springboard to generate more humanizing social relations. Some critics of global society consider this the “dirty work.” Third, we will need to think about bringing these two dimensions of interlinked movements together, and learning through active engagement and dialogue. The theoreticians automatically think that this is the task for them, a “clean” and untarnished job that may provide distance from the “lower,” more concrete, and messy social-change jobs. And some local activists may want to lose themselves in concrete projects like promoting equality for gender/sexuality and cultural groups in new schools, recording liberating music and publishing books and producing films, regenerating local ecology within a global framework, bringing previously stratified groups together that have been in conflict, and starting egalitarian and democratic transnational trade and production networks. In fact, the more that all of us see what has happened, and what can be, on once visible and invisible levels and in terms of possible new connections, the more whole we will be, providing us with a better chance of building societies where there is real growth.

## Inherent Contradictions Today

Thomas D. Hall, Depauw University

(excerpt from speech delivered at Focus the Nation speech, 1/31/08)

First an obvious point, a political-economic system based on constant expansion is incompatible with sustainability. Some economists argue that constant expansion is not necessary for capitalism to operate, but when pressed they admit, most elites in capitalists both believe it is and act accordingly. Sing Chew's work (2001) and that of Chase-Dunn and Hall (1997) make it abundantly clear, the fault is not entirely with capitalism. To be sure environmental transformation and damage has increased exponentially with the rise of capitalism and its intertwined industrial revolution. Furthermore, free markets cannot solve this problem. First, markets do not deal well with public goods issues without state intervention. Second, from Adam Smith forward, many have noted that markets, when they do work, only do so when all the players are approximately equal and have approximately equal access to information. As all world-systems analysis, and that of others, shows, this avowedly not the case.

The difficulty, as I see it, humans need to think in new dimensions away from the polarity of socialism – capitalism. Sklair's (2002, 2006) call for democratic socialism points to at least one alternative. Terry Boswell and Christopher Chase-Dunn (2000) see some possibilities in the spiral of change. Warren Wagar (1999) points to other alternatives. Bennholdt-Thomsen (2001) sketch many others. Bodley (2003) and Hall and Fenelon (2004) suggest that there are lessons to be learned from indigenous peoples, albeit they cannot be copied wholesale. Rather, they offer starting points for new thinking. One of the difficulties in any change of this magnitude is that humans often solve critical social problems following a satisficing strategy, and only later begin maximizing, or following a mini-max strategy. This takes time, which according to some estimates we may not have.

To be effective, any promotion of change emanating from core areas and states must be by example, not by fiat. The core collectively is responsible for the lion's share of global pollution and warming. Though China and India are adding to the problem, their contributions remain much less. The rest of the semiperiphery and periphery has a very small impact. To ask them to reduce pollution is to deny them development. Thus, the core must do it first, and do so seriously.

Serious reduction in pollution from core areas means elites, and most of the middle classes must make sacrifices. This is not an easy change to produce. The problem is magnified because most new evidence is showing the problem is more extreme and growing more rapidly than expected. This suggests that change must be revolutionary and evolutionary and not incremental. There may not even be sufficient time for the usual "spiral of change" to work.

In addition to the obvious political economic and social structural changes there needs to be radical shifts in ideology and *weltanschauungen*. First, the equation of growth = good, must be reversed. It needs to be replaced with a notion of sustainability. Here, again a lesson may be taken from indigenous peoples: all problems must be analyzed from the perspective of seven generations; all solutions must be undertaken with the next seven generation in mind. In short, humans need to think historically and in the long-term. For this to happen many other institutions need to be altered so such thinking is rewarded. Finally, despite the inherent dangers in doing so, we need publicly and forcefully to treat global warming deniers as fools. They are worse than those who would shout "fire" in a crowded theater, or deny that the holocaust happened.

Finally, returning to the opening points, this is a problem much larger than the political economy of international capitalism. To be sure, international capitalism has greatly exacerbated the problem. Yet deleterious effects on the environment have been a fundamentally human problem. A problem first accelerated with the invention of states, then with the rise of global capitalism, the modern world-system. Clearly too, we need to “think outside the box” – something with which world-systems analysts have some experience and with which they have developed some knowledge and skill.

**Capitalism & Ecology: ending capitalism to save humanity and the planet**

Walda Katz-Fishman & Jerome Scott, Project South founders

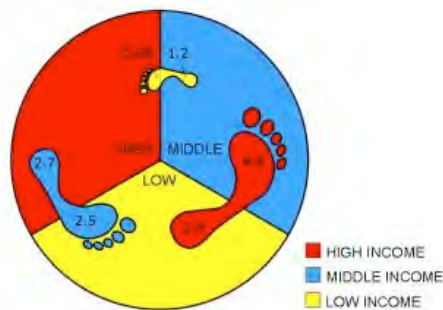
Capitalism as a world system has historically been built upon wars of conquest and primitive accumulation, and the exploitation of human labor and nature. Twenty-first century global capitalism has taken the logic of markets and maximum profit from contradiction to antagonism. Today’s electronic-based production, unlike the machine-based production of the industrial age, is labor-replacing. While workers are more productive than ever in human history, they are less and less needed in the production process. As their jobs and wages disappear, working people are unable to purchase the necessities of life; and global markets are saturated and in crisis.

The oil-based economy drives the U.S. war machine and global warming; and nature herself is becoming exhausted. Neoliberal policies and efforts to create new markets through the commodification and privatization of all things makes necessities such as water increasingly inaccessible to working and poor peoples across the globe. The fight for water has reached from Cochabamba, Bolivia to Highland Park, Michigan, USA.

In the World/ U.S. Social Forum process bringing our many fronts of struggle together in one movement for another world and another U.S., Indigenous peoples have been and are at the center of the environmental justice and climate well being struggle. They remind us that global capitalism was formed out of genocide and destruction of the earth. For many activists and scholars, who unite theory and practice, it is clear that we can create a cooperative, egalitarian and peaceful world. But what is most compelling in this moment is that we must end global capitalism’s exploitation of workers and nature if we are to save humanity and the planet.

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Where Ecological Footprints Fall  
 Upper bound footprints of income groups on other groups  
 (trillions 2005 international \$)



# Council Updates

## Committee Nominations

### Chair

Paul Gellert, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, [pgellert@utk.edu](mailto:pgellert@utk.edu)

Jeff Kentor, University of Utah, [jeffrey.kentor@soc.utah.edu](mailto:jeffrey.kentor@soc.utah.edu)

### Council

#### POSITION 1:

Elena Ermolaeva, Marshall University, [ermolaevae@marshall.edu](mailto:ermolaevae@marshall.edu)

John M. Talbot, University of the West Indies, Mona, [john.talbot@uwimona.edu.jm](mailto:john.talbot@uwimona.edu.jm)

#### POSITION 2:

Leontina Hormel, University of Idaho, [lhormel@yahoo.com](mailto:lhormel@yahoo.com)

Frederick Schiff, University of Houston, [fschiff@uh.edu](mailto:fschiff@uh.edu)

### Student member

Kaan Agartan, Binghamton University, [agartan@binghamton.edu](mailto:agartan@binghamton.edu)

Christopher, Dick, North Carolina State University, [ccdick@unity.ncsu.edu](mailto:ccdick@unity.ncsu.edu)

Phillip Hough, Johns Hopkins University, [phillipahough@hotmail.com](mailto:phillipahough@hotmail.com)

George P. Mason, George Mason [gmason@wayne.edu](mailto:gmason@wayne.edu)

Dan Pasciuti, Johns Hopkins University, [pasciuti@jhu.edu](mailto:pasciuti@jhu.edu)

## Proposed Changes to PEWS Bylaws

The bylaws review committee (Salvatore Babones, Matthew Mahutga, Laura McKinney) has come to agreement on a draft of proposed new bylaws for the PEWS section. The proposed new bylaws incorporate some important changes from the old bylaws, plus many small clarifications. The revision was prompted by four main motives: (1) to restructure the old "Editorial Board" into a Publications Committee that would have major responsibilities in overseeing the JWSR; (2) to change the dissertation award into a graduate student paper award, (3) to even out the responsibilities of council members from year to year (though the progression will still be from least time commitment in the first year to most in the final year); and (4) to reduce the number of volunteers that must be recruited each year at the business meeting.

To create a true Publications Committee (1) we've suggested moving both first-year Council members to the committee, plus recruiting a committee chair from the membership at large. We felt the chair should come from the membership at the business meeting to provide some independence from the section leadership for the important task of JWSR oversight. The Publications Committee would be responsible for oversight of both JWSR and PEWSNews, recruiting editors, recommending funding, etc. This will evolve into an important committee responsibility as the relationship between PEWS and JWSR evolves.



To create a student paper award (2) we've dropped the dissertation award, as voted by Council. We've opted to have the Paper Award Committee award both a professional and a student paper award every year, rather than alternating. The students really want a paper award every year, and really, this is in the best interests of the section as well. Since the reading load for paper awards is dramatically lower than for the book award, it seemed a reasonable equalization of responsibilities to offer both student and professional article awards every year.

To equalize responsibilities of council members (3) we've proposed the committee changes described above.

To reduce the volunteers needed (4) we've proposed eliminating the Membership Committee (duties to be taken over by the Secretary-Treasurer) and eliminating at-large members from all but the Nominations Committee (where of course they're necessary) and the Publications Committee (which would have an at-large chair). In total, the changes made in the proposed bylaws revision reduces the number of volunteer we must solicit at each annual meeting from nine to three. This will ease the annual recruiting burden, and also perhaps encourage more people to attend the business meeting.

The full text of the proposed new bylaws appears below. The existing bylaws can be found on the PEWS website at: <http://www2.asanet.org/sectionpews/pewslisshp.html>. The PEWS Council is currently considering the proposed changes and would welcome your input (e-mail [sbabones@inbox.com](mailto:sbabones@inbox.com) for your message to be forwarded to the whole Council). If the Council approves the new bylaws, there will be a full membership vote before they can take effect.

### **PROPOSED NEW BYLAWS TEXT**

The Section on Political Economy of The World-System (PEWS) will be concerned with pursuing the study of world-systems over long periods of time, and to the understanding of the difference such a point of departure makes for the integrated analysis of the political economy and its social bases.

**Officer of the Section.** The officers of the Section shall be a Chairperson, a Chairperson-Elect, a Past-Chairperson, and a Secretary-Treasurer. Voting members of the association alone shall be eligible to hold office. The Chairperson-Elect will automatically become Chairperson in the year following his/her office as Chairperson-Elect, and in the year subsequent to that become Past-Chairperson. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected for a period of three years. There shall be a Council consisting of six members, each serving for three years, with two Council seats being vacated each year. In addition, there shall also be a student member of Council, elected each year by the membership. Officers shall not succeed themselves. The Chairperson, Chairperson-Elect, Past-Chairperson, and Secretary-Treasurer shall also serve as members of the Council with the Chairperson of the Section serving as Chairperson of the Council. The Chairperson, in consultation with the Chairperson-Elect, Past-Chairperson, and membership at large, will be responsible for determining the academic program of the section. The Secretary-Treasurer will be responsible for keeping section records (including the website) up to date, drafting an annual budget for the section, and tracking and promoting section membership.

**Power of the Officers.** The Council is vested in principle with the power to carry out all necessary operations for the Section, acting as the representative of the membership of the Section. The functions of the Council include cooperating with the Program Committee of the American Sociological Association in planning the presentation of its field of interest in the Annual Meeting of the Association.

**Elections and Voting.** The elections of the Section shall be carried out in cooperation with the American Sociological Association and coordinated to their schedule.

**Committees.**

- (a) There shall be a Committee of Nominations, elected each year by those members of the Section present at an open Business Meeting to take place at the Annual Meeting of the Association. The Nominating Committee shall be constituted of at least three members, with the stipulation that no member shall serve on the nominating committee for two consecutive years, and the Past-Chairperson of the Section will be the chair of the committee. The Nominating Committee shall present two people for each office to be voted on by the voting members of the Section, by mail ballot.
- (b) There shall be an annual Book Award Committee, the composition of which shall be Chairperson-Elect, plus the two outgoing members of the Council. The Chairperson-Elect shall be chair of the committee. The award shall be for the best book or books published with copyright date falling in the two calendar years prior to the year of the award. Authors are invited to self-nominate for the award. The Chair of the Book Award committee will coordinate with the Chair of the Article award committee to ensure that the total number of section awards made is in compliance with ASA guidelines.
- (c) There shall be an annual Article Award Committee, the composition of which shall be the PEWS Chairperson (who will serve as chair of the committee) plus the two members of Council in their second year of service. Article awards will be offered for both the best professional paper and the best student paper published (including publication in ASA meeting proceeding) with copyright date falling in the two calendar years prior to the year of the award. Authors are invited to self-nominate for the awards. The student paper award shall be called the Terrence K. Hopkins Award. The Chair of the Article Award committee will coordinate with the Chair of the Book award committee to ensure that the total number of section awards made is in compliance with ASA guidelines.
- (d) There shall be an Publications Committee to oversee the publication of the Journal of World-Systems Research and PEWSNews. The Publications Committee will consist of at least five members: the two incoming Council members, the editors of the JWSR and PEWSNews, and a Publications Committee Chair to be elected from the section membership at large at the annual business meeting.

Other committees shall be appointed by the Chairperson with the approval of the Council, on an *ad hoc* basis.

**Nomination by Petition.** Qualified members of the Section may be nominated for any office by a petition of ten percent of the members of the Section or by 25 members of the Section, whichever is less. The choices of the Nominating Committee for each office shall be made known to the membership at least 60 days prior to the deadline for receiving nominations by petition.

**Referenda.** Any action of the Council, including changes of the By-Laws, may be referred to a mail ballot of Section members by means of a petition containing the signatures of ten percent of the Section members or of 25 members of the Section, whichever is less. Any resolution passed by the Annual Business Meeting of the Section shall be referred to Council. If such resolutions are not accepted by the Council, they shall be submitted to the membership by mail ballot.

**Membership.** The membership of the Section shall be drawn from the members of the American Sociological Association who have expressed an interest in the political economy of the world-system.

**Dues.** Dues shall be set by the Council to cover the operation of the Section in accord with the requirements of the American Sociological Association.

**Awards.** In accordance with the Association's regulations on sections, four types of awards will be given. The awards are: Book Award [Annual], Article Award [Annual], Terence K. Hopkins Award [Annual], and Distinguished Career Award [occasional -- award must be approved by the PEWS Council and ratified by the membership at the annual business meeting].

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## Conference Updates

### Overseas Young Chinese Forum 10<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting

#### “Globalization and Nationalism across the Taiwan Strait”

Globalization and nationalism are the two most important economic and socio-political developments of our times. We would like to examine such forces, and the associated tensions and conflicts, in the context of the cross-Strait relations between mainland China and Taiwan. Our conference, which will be held on **May 24 -26, 2008** in the wake of 2008 Taiwan election and before the Olympics Meet in Beijing, aims to bring students, scholars, officials and other working professionals from Taiwan, mainland China and the US for a constructive conversation over the complex forms, dynamics, consequences and implications of globalization and nationalism in East Asia, especially as they pertain to the cross-Strait relations between mainland China and Taiwan. The conference is to be held in Palo Alto, California. For information on the meeting organizer, Overseas Young Chinese Forum, please visit <http://oycf.org>

### 2nd Brazilian Colloquium on Political Economy of the World-Systems

The 2nd Brazilian Colloquium on Political Economy of the World-Systems has the aim of developing and spreading in Brazil academic researches on topics that are relevant to World-Systems Analysis, especially those related to Latin America. For that purpose, international conferences, presentations of scientific researches and mini-courses will take place during the meeting. Scientific articles that address social, political, economic and cultural processes at any historical time are very welcome, since that they have the Political Economy of the World-Systems (PEWS) as their analytical framework. The articles may be theoretical, applied or critical in relation to PEWS.

Promotion: Research Group on Political Economy of the World-Systems (Federal University of Santa Catarina - UFSC)

Date: June 30th and July 1st, 2008

Place: Florianópolis, Santa Catarina. Federal University of Santa Catarina ([www.ufsc.br](http://www.ufsc.br))

More information: [www.gpepsm.ufsc.br](http://www.gpepsm.ufsc.br)

## Global Division Session Proposals for SSSP 2008

### Globalization and Women of the Global South: Resistance from Below

Organizers: Ligaya Lindio McGovern, Indiana University

Email: [ligayako29@aol.com](mailto:ligayako29@aol.com) work = 1-765-455-9376

Richard Dello Buono, Independent Scholar

Email: [rdellob@hotmail.com](mailto:rdellob@hotmail.com)

### Global Inequalities

[Global Division, co-sponsored with Political Economy of World System ASA Section --- arrangement is in progress, organizers still have to hear from PEWS]

Organizers: Jon Shefner, University of Tennessee

Email: [jshefner@iuk.edu](mailto:jshefner@iuk.edu) work: 865 974 7022

David Smith, University of California-Irvine

Email: [dasmith@uci.edu](mailto:dasmith@uci.edu) work: 949 824 7292, 2572

### North/South Dialogue -- Globalization and Human Rights: Contradictions and Opportunities

[This is a thematic session with invited speakers/participants]

Organizers: LaDawn Hogland, Arizona State University

John Dale, George Mason University

Emails: [ladawn.hagland@asu.edu](mailto:ladawn.hagland@asu.edu) [jdale@gmu.edu](mailto:jdale@gmu.edu)

### Globalization, Migration, and Economic Diaspora

Organizer: Luis Fernandez, Northern Arizona University

Email: [Luis.Fernandez@nau.edu](mailto:Luis.Fernandez@nau.edu)

### Globalization and Models of Democracy

(Global Division, co-sponsored with Sociologists Without Borders)

Organizer: Daniel Egan, University of Massachusetts-Lowell

Email: [Daniel\\_Egan@uml.edu](mailto:Daniel_Egan@uml.edu)

**Note: Requesting not to schedule this on July 31 because SWB has a constitutional convention that day**

### Critical Perspectives on Global Security and Governance

[Global Division, co-sponsored with *Critical Sociology Journal*, organizer still have to hear from the Journal]

Organizer: Tony Samara, George Mason University

Email: [tsamara@gmu](mailto:tsamara@gmu) work = 703 993 3780

### Globalization, Environmental Crisis and Alternatives

Organizer: Alan Spector, Purdue University-Calumet

Email: [a\\_spector@sbcglobal.net](mailto:a_spector@sbcglobal.net)

### Globalization: Theory, Ideology and Practice

Organizer: David Foster Steele, Austin Peay State University

Email: [steeled@apsu.edu](mailto:steeled@apsu.edu) work = 931-221-7519

*Global Studies Association Annual Conference*

## **THE NATION IN THE GLOBAL ERA**

New York City, Pace University, June 6-8<sup>th</sup>.

**Opening Night: Immanuel Wallerstein and Saskia Sassen**

*Keynotes:* Giovanni Arrighi, Craig Calhoun, Bill Fletcher Jr., Hester Eisenstein, Valerie Moghadam, David Laibman, Lauren Langman, Vijay Prashad, William Robinson, Beverly Silver, Manfred Steger and William Tabb.

For registration and information: <http://www.net4dem.org/mayglobal>

Abstracts can be sent to Jerry Harris: [gharris234@comcast.net](mailto:gharris234@comcast.net)



## PEWS Session Proposals for ASA 2008

The panels have been set for the next ASA meeting, to be held August 1-4, 2008 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Emerging Peripheries: Brazil, Russia, India and China,  
Organizer and Chair, Paul Gellert, [pgellert@utk.edu](mailto:pgellert@utk.edu)

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

Militarization and the Security State,  
Organizer and Chair, Shelley Feldman, [rf12@cornell.edu](mailto:rf12@cornell.edu)

Uneven ecological exchange in the contemporary world-economy  
Organizer, Andrew Jorgenson, [jorgensonandrew@hotmail.com](mailto:jorgensonandrew@hotmail.com)  
Joint Session with Marxism and Environment and Technology:

Roundtables, Laura McKinney, [lamckinn@sa.ncsu.edu](mailto:lamckinn@sa.ncsu.edu)

## World-Systems Analysis & the Challenges of the 21st Century 33rd Annual Conference of PEWS

33rd Annual Conference of the Political Economy of the World-System Section of the American Sociological Association, April 23-25, 2009, to be held at the University of San Diego, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, California, 92110. Please send submissions by October 15, 2008, to Dr. Tom Reifer, Sociology Department, USD, 5998 Alcala Park, San Diego, CA 92110, [reifer@sandiego.edu](mailto:reifer@sandiego.edu)

World-systems analysis, as critique of the existing structures of knowledge, violence and power, has made important contributions to our understanding of the global system. These analyses have ranged from nuanced explorations of world-regions, to the changing social foundations of successive hegemonies, to global power and inequalities - including of race, ethnicity, class, gender and nation - to the study of social movements seeking to transform the global system in more democratic, peaceful and egalitarian directions. This conference focuses on cutting edge research and debates about the challenges of the 21st century, including of issues sometimes neglected in world-system analysis. Special attention will be given to questions of violence, religion and other “imagined communities” of the sacred (including “nations”), world-regions, world inequalities, global ecology and the possibilities for creating a democratic and ecologically sustainable world-society based on the principles of peace and social justice. Topics to be discussed include: a) world-regions and global transformations b) violence, the sacred and the global system c) global power and inequalities and d) world- systems analysis and the challenges of the 21st century.

A) World-Regions & Global Transformations

World-systems analysis has been associated with landmark explorations of the global system. Yet, at the same time, with its heritage from Annales, world-systems analysis has also embraced a nuanced analysis of world-regions, including border zones. We invite proposals grappling with the question of world-regions, including border regions - especially the US-Mexican border region - and their changing role in the transformation of the global system.

B) Violence, the Sacred, and the Global System

The study of violence in the global system has ranged from the analysis of structural and symbolic violence to the exploration of physical violence, especially in organized forms such as warfare, massacre, genocide and torture. This panel aims to explore questions of structural, symbolic or physical violence as related to larger questions of the sacred/profane, with a special emphasis on religion and other imagined communities of the sacred (including of the “nation,” peoples and related civilizational identities) that have played major roles in the expansion of the global system and/or resistance to its attendant inequalities of wealth and power. Examples include Native American and other indigenous and syncretic religions, Judeo-Christianity, Catholicism, liberation theology, Pentecostalism and political Islam. This panel will explore these intersections, with a focus on contemporary issues.

C) Global Power & Inequalities

Global inequalities of race, ethnicity, class, gender and nation have been constitutive elements of modernity. Today, there is also a growing awareness of how unequal ecological appropriation, biological exchanges and socio-ecological relations have played critical roles in the making of global power and inequality. This panel invites papers speaking to questions of world power and inequalities, especially those focusing on ecology. Of special interest too are papers that deal simultaneously with questions of power and inequalities and the structures of knowledge.

D) World-Systems Analysis & the Challenges of the 21st Century

This panel invites submissions that explore pressing questions, including those heretofore relatively neglected in world-systems analysis, in light of the challenges of the 21st century, including new research agendas, revision of theoretical perspectives, new concepts, etc.

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## World System Activism

The PEWS Council has voted to allocate \$500 to support PEWS section representation at the World Social Forum and the US Social Forum. The \$500 will be used to cover registration expenses and panels/displays at the meeting in Belem, Brazil in 2009 and the US Social Forum in 2010 (location to be determined). PEWS members will decide which issues are important to address and represent at the meetings. If you are interested in being involved, contact Marina Karides ([mkarides@fau.edu](mailto:mkarides@fau.edu)). The monetary allocation will be revisited in 2010 after the two meetings to assess future contributions.



# Call for Proposals

## Global Development Studies

The International Studies Association is undertaking a series of reviews of all areas of international studies in its ISA Compendium Project: <http://www.isanet.org/compendium/> PEWS Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore Babones is the ISA Compendium editor for Global Development Studies. He is currently soliciting proposals from potential authors for some 40 review essays spanning the field of development. The topic list for Global Development Studies is reprinted below.

If you might be interested in contributing a 10,000 word review essay on one of these topics, please contact Salvatore at [sbabones@inbox.com](mailto:sbabones@inbox.com). New faculty who have recently completed a Ph.D. in one of these areas are especially encouraged to contribute, since all essays will be fully peer-reviewed. Joint proposals from two or more scholars are also welcome. (\*Authors have already been assigned for these topics.)

### I. Theorizing global development

- 1 What is development?
- 2 Development economics: Classical, neoclassical, critical, and radical
- 3 Political and social theory on development
- 4 Non-Western approaches to development

### II. Major theoretical traditions in global development studies

- 5 Modernization theory
- 6 Dependency and world-systems perspectives on development
- 7 Post-development theory
- 8 Cultural political economy

### III. Encounters and processes in historical context

- 9 The colonial encounter and its legacy
- 10 Decolonization and its contradictions
- 11\* The Development of 'Lands of Recent Settlement'
- 12 Race and post-colonial studies

### IV. Power and dispossession

- 13 Slavery: Historical and continuing
- 14 Women and development
- 15 Labor and labor standards
- 16 Identity, difference and development

### V. Development and the state

- 17 Sovereignty and the nation-state system
- 18 Development, conflict, and security
- 19 Development and democratic processes
- 20 Development, welfare policy, and the welfare state



**(Global Development Studies Continued)****VI. Systems of production**

- 21\* Determinants of economic growth
- 22 Global commodity chains
- 23 The developmental effectiveness of foreign direct investment
- 24 Structural adjustment, privatization, and the decimation of the commons

**VII. Poverty and inequality**

- 25 Global poverty
- 26 Development and inequality
- 27 The Millennium Development Goals and the politics of poverty reduction
- 28 Foreign aid and the development community

**VIII. Development and human security**

- 29 Development and health
- 30 Expanding urban slums
- 31 Food insecurity
- 32 Microfinance and social entrepreneurship

**IX. Culture, religion, and development**

- 33 Modernity and its contradictions
- 34 Development and religion
- 35\* Globalizations and fundamentalisms
- 36 The biopolitics of development

**X. Responses to developmentalism**

- 37 Neoliberalism and its critics
- 38 Indigenous rights
- 39 Landless movements
- 40 Transnational social movements

**XII. Pedagogy**

- 41 Teaching global development studies



Fernand Braudel sought ways to shake historians into an awareness that they needed to focus on geography. The second edition of *La Mediterranee* (1966) featured a striking image designed by famed cartographer Jacques Bertin. Maps of the Mediterranean Sea often show how much of Europe is only a tiny slice of North Africa. To emphasize the importance of Africa to the Mediterranean, Bertin oriented the map toward the south, *showing Africa looming over the Mediterranean with a relatively small Europe on the other side of the sea*, much as this satellite image conveys this geographic relationship. (Image courtesy of NASA.)

# Recent Publications

## Articles

Hall, Thomas D. 2007. "Incorporating North America into the Eurasian World-System" in *World System History*, [Eds. George Modelski, Robert A. Denemark], in *Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS)*, Developed under the Auspices of the UNESCO, Eolss Publishers, Oxford, UK, <http://www.eolss.net>.

Tamdgidi, Mohammad H. 2007. "Abu Ghraib as a Microcosm: The Strange Face of Empire as a Lived Prison." *Sociological Spectrum*, v. 27, n. 1, 29-55.

Tamdgidi, Mohammad H. 2006. "Toward a Dialectical Conception of Imperiality: The Transitory (Heuristic) Nature of the Primacy of Analyses of Economies in World-Historical Social Science." *Review* (Journal of the Fernand Braudel Center). v. XXIX, n. 4, 291-328.

\*The Fall 2006 issue on the theme "*Othering Islam*" includes the proceedings of an international conference on Islamophobia, organized by Ramón Grosfoguel (U.C. Berkeley) and Eric Mielants (Fairfield University) in June 2006, at the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris, France. Grosfoguel and Mielants also served as guest co-editors of this issue.

\*The Summer 2007 Special Double-Issue on the theme "**Reflections on Fanon**" includes papers by distinguished scholars, faculty, and doctoral, graduate, and undergraduate students, as part of the proceedings of the Fourth Annual Social Theory Forum held on March 27-28, 2007, at UMass Boston (Theme: "The Violences of Colonialism and Racism, Inner and Global: Conversations with Frantz Fanon on the Meaning of Human Emancipation")

\*Both are available online at website: <http://www.okcir.com> and also in hard copy print.

## Books

Smith, Jackie. 2008. *Social Movements for Global Democracy*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

The book examines contemporary movements for global justice, arguing that these diverse movements have long been articulating an alternative to neoliberal globalization. Smith shows how networks of human rights, environmental, and economic justice activists have advanced a more democratic world order. She argues for more concerted efforts to advance a vision of democratic globalization by building upon the lessons and infrastructures of earlier efforts, including the World Social Forum process.

Tamdgidi, Mohammad H. 2007. *Advancing Utopistics: The Three Component Parts and Errors of Marxism*. Paradigm Publishers

Inspired by Immanuel Wallerstein's *Utopistics*, this book shows why utopistics cannot advance without sober and self-critical revisitations of its own intellectual heritage. Most sympathetic critiques of Marxism have targeted the shortcomings in its practices and/or theories (including its materialist conception of history), while regarding Marx's materialist dialectical method as sacred ground. Through a succinct analysis of the inner contradictions of the three practical, theoretical, and methodological tenets of classical Marxism, Tamdgidi argues that the root causes of Marxism's decline must be sought in Marx's method itself. This book concludes with a critical reexamination of the relation of Marxism and utopianism, arguing that Marx and Engels's debunking of utopianism in contrast to science had more of an ideological function than substantive merits, an

ultimate error that set back the cause of advancing alternative strategies for radical social change for decades. A substantial methodological appendix is devoted to the exposition of a non-reductive, creative dialectical method more conducive to advancing utopistics.

## Book Reviews

Hall, Thomas D. "Violence over the Land: Indians and Empires in the Early American West" by Ned Blackhawk. *Journal of American History* 93:2(Sept. 2007):5787-578.

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## Tools and Resources

### What Historians Want from GIS By J. B. "Jack" Owens

(Excerpted from <http://www.esri.com/news/arcnews/summer07/articles/what-historians-want.html>)

#### GIS and History

I am often the only historian at geographic information science (GIScience) meetings, and my presence provokes the obvious question. A story will explain why a historian would become interested in GIS. At the beginning of my graduate studies, I read Fernand Braudel's *La Méditerranée et le monde méditerranéen à l'époque de Philippe II* because I was studying the western Mediterranean in the 16th century and plunged into this 1949 book with considerable enthusiasm despite its imposing length. As I read Braudel's attempt to integrate the slow changes in the Mediterranean's geographic form, climate, flora, and fauna with the faster alterations in human socioeconomic relations and the specific wars, political alterations, and other events of the 16th century, I struggled to understand how these different layers of the account, which were discussed in sections characterized by the variable speeds of temporal process, fit together. At the time, I tried tracing maps of human cultural features, such as cities and centers of economic activity, over topographic maps in an effort to integrate better the elements of Braudel's history. This work produced nothing more than a visual mess, which also failed to capture the considerable dynamism of Braudel's account. Moreover, I repeatedly felt frustrated that I could not easily examine particularly interesting segments of my visualizations at a larger scale.

Many years later, on a hot, sleepless night in Murcia, Spain, in 1983, I used my daughters' tracing paper and colored pencils to try this technique again. This time, I was investigating the development of a cohesive oligarchy in southeastern Castile and wanted to see, literally, how my different types of data went together. I



Illustration by Jay Merryweather, ESRI

was particularly interested in the evolution of social networks among individuals, families, and communities within a regional social and cultural environment. Alas, even for this more spatially restricted story, no useful result emerged from the tracings that captured the dynamism and complexity of the processes involved.

Again, after the passage of many years, when I told this story during an online discussion of possible titles for Andre Gunder Frank's 1998 book *ReORIENT: Global Economy in the Asian Age*, I learned from other participants, Martin Lewis and Kären Wigen, that a method existed to undertake the type of visualization I had earlier attempted. They recommended that I try GIS as an integration and visualization tool, and I participated in my first GIS workshops with great aesthetic and intellectual satisfaction.

It so happens that Frank's book, which focuses on the first global age, 1400–1800 CE, formed part of a body of work produced by Braudel, Immanuel Wallerstein, and others on historic "world systems," which were geospatially large, interconnected, dynamic entities of considerable complexity. Although Frank rejected existing linear, civilizationalist, and Eurocentric social science theories of historical development, as well as his own pioneering work in economics on dependency theory, he admitted that he did not know how to undertake the type of data organization and analysis that would be necessary to understand such complex systems. He, therefore, limited his book to a path-breaking discussion of the world economy, for which he received the inaugural Best Book prize of the World History Association in 1999. Since early 1995, Frank had been pushing me to figure out how such a comprehensive "holistic global analysis" (his phrase) could be done. It increasingly appeared to me that GIS, with its capacity for the aggregation of data on the basis of geographic location and spatial analysis, provided a tool for the work that Frank had wanted to do before he died in April 2005.

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## Job Announcements

The Sociology Program at the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL) is now accepting applications for a one year visiting lecturer position (pending funding approval with a second renewal year possible) beginning August 2008. PhD, or ABD, in Sociology. Must demonstrate high potential for scholarly productivity; and be genuinely interested in teaching diverse students at the bachelor's and master's levels. All fields are open. Review of completed applications begins immediately and continues until position is filled. Applications accepted only online at <https://jobs.uhcl.edu>. To apply, please complete the online faculty application and attach a letter of interest and vita. To complete your application file, please mail three letters of recommendation, graduate transcripts, and evidence of teaching effectiveness to: Chair, Sociology Search, University of Houston-Clear Lake, Box 416, 2700 Bay Area Blvd., Houston, TX 77058-1098. For more info, please visit the following website: <https://jobs.uhcl.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/frameset/Frameset.jsp?time=1204049863010>