



# PEWS NEWS

Fall 2010

Volume 10, Issue 2

Political Economy of the World-System

American Sociological Association

## What Can the World-System Approach Teach Us About the Current Financial Crisis?

Twenty years ago, Alvin So (1990) critiqued world-systems research for its absence of historical specificity in the analysis of global dynamics. So was not the first to point out that world-system theorists often paint with a broad brush, which lends itself to focusing more on the broad contours of the capitalist world-system over the *longue duree* than finite historical moments.

In sharp contrast, contemporary economists (Shiller 2005; Taleb 2007) have persuasively argued that capitalism and the global financial system are best characterized not by long periods of economic growth, but rather, punctuated equilibria, or brief periods of economic instability that produce rapid, often destabilizing social change. This view of rapidly destabilizing capitalist forces has garnered widespread public attention in light of the recent bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers, the near collapse of investment banking, and the global financial crisis. As economists argue whether this sudden crisis is endogenous or exogenous to the financial system, taking a broader, more long-term view can help economists and policymakers understand how even the most short-term and aberrant occasions are best understood through an analysis of the world-system approach and the *longue duree*.

From this view, at least three lessons immediately shift into focus. *First, in the immediate aftermath of a crisis, the initial policy responses tend to be heavily influenced by entities representing core interests and often provide very little consideration of peripheral interests.* For example, following the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers, policymakers sought to shore up ailing financial institutions through partial nationalization or capital injections when it became too costly to acquire the toxic assets that were adversely affecting bank balance sheets (Landler and Dash 2008). While we do not take issue with policymakers' decisions to intervene in the crisis, it is clear that policy always focused on protecting the core interests and global financiers with little emphasis on the underlying causes of massive leveraging, credit default swaps and exposure to the United States mortgage market. Consequently, far from the core zones of global finance production (New York, London), semi-peripheries like Irvine (CA), Myrtle Beach (SC) and Reno (NV) reported mortgage losses running into the hundreds of millions of dollars (Global Insight 2007).

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## A Few Words From the Chair

Dear PEWS Members,

I hope your fall semester is going well! For my first message from the chair, I would like to reflect on the significant contributions of PEWS analysis and analysts to the discipline of sociology and what I see as the key next steps for advancing PEWS within the discipline. I will conclude with two questions about what the section should be doing in the future.

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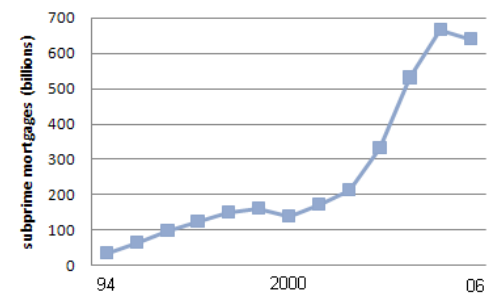
## World-Systems Approach and the Current Financial Crisis

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Peripheral losses sensitize us to the second lesson of the *longue duree*, which is that *while attempts by policymakers and core interests to intervene may appear to be well intentioned, in the long-term, such intervention tends to result in greater exploitation of the semi-periphery or periphery by the core*. As federal policymakers dropped interest rates to historic lows following the September 11, 2001 attacks, they unwittingly fostered the economic conditions for access to cheap credit that, in the hands of core financiers, was used to originate billions in mortgage loans that were then securitized and sold off to investors seeking higher returns over more traditional securities. With the market for excellent credit worthy Prime A, or Alternative-A borrowers nearly exhausted, core financiers began lowering standards (“paper savers” became the euphemism for no documentation loans) and developing increasingly innovative mortgage products (2/28 hybrid ARMs, pick-a-payment mortgages). Originators aggressively pushed these loans to the most economically disadvantaged citizens who had long been barred from the housing market and were now promised affordable housing that would rapidly increase in value. There is some evidence to conclude that subprime, the riskiest of all mortgages, were disproportionately pushed to minority groups. For example, in 2006, near the height of the mortgage origination boom, subprime mortgages accounted for 53 percent of all mortgages for blacks, and 45 percent for Latinos, compared to only 22 percent originated for whites (Wyly et al. 2009). Shortly thereafter, many borrowers in the peripheries, that did not fully understand the terms of their mortgage, began to default, which was a primary source of economic instability for core financiers and created broader global instability. Financial expert Frank Fabozzi and his colleagues estimated that within two years of the securitization of these 2006 subprime mortgages, 72 percent would default, an unprecedented level of loss only eclipsed by the 91 percent default rate for the 2007 subprime vintage (Goodman et al. 2008).

**Growth of Subprime Mortgages**

1994 - 2006



The third lesson learned from the economic crisis is that *semi-periphery and periphery zones may be more vulnerable to future crises and instability*. In the two years that have passed since the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the surviving institutional financiers have been slow to lend, and those that do, often lend at higher interest rates relative to smaller regional banks or credit unions. This is likely due to the massive amount of leverage these financial institutions took on during the first decade of the century, from which will take them substantial time to delever. When policymakers intervened through capital injections they did so to replace Tier 1 capital, the base that banks calculate their leverage ratios. However, these interventions did not fully consider the amount these institutions had in off-balance sheet transactions. Estimates place these transactions at six trillion dollars among the remaining core financial institutions (Bass 2008). With a lack of institutional investing and the government balance sheet stretched in an effort to stem the financial crisis while attempting to meet the additional mounting social obligations, what is often lost is that there is very little capital remaining to lend to those who need it the most in the United States and the developing world. These declines are real and have left the contemporary world-system in a far more fragile state than the public, or many scholars realize, increasing the likelihood of greater instability as government and private sector margins of safety erode.

We hope to have demonstrated that if the world-system approach influences immediate social occasions following a crisis, then it likely influences broader social change as has often been claimed the scholars in this field. While we do not expect many of the foremost scholars to take a more narrow focus in the understanding of the historical trajectory of capitalism, we do hope that this short piece has demonstrated how even the most singular moments of crisis are best contextualized in the broader history of the world-system, and that an absence of historical specification in the analysis of global dynamics does not necessarily mean that world-system scholars do not have anything meaningful to contribute to this ongoing dialogue.

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References located in Appendix A, Page 14.



## A Few Words from the Chair

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In analytic terms, PEWS research has long examined key issues of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries that other branches of sociology and other disciplines have only recently recognized. PEWS analysts study the social movements and political efforts to challenge the ideological hegemony of neoliberalism around the world, the rise of China and the decline of U.S. hegemony, and the severe environmental problems confronting the world today, among many other critical concerns.

In institutional terms, the efforts of our members in recent years have greatly strengthened the position of PEWS in the field. The long-sought approval of JWSR as an official ASA Section journal is one of the most visible and important. The growing number of departments with strong PEWS research and education programs provides institutional homes and supportive environments for our work. A less readily observable change is the increasing success of PEWS researchers in obtaining funding from the National Science Foundation for faculty and graduate student research.

We need to continue to build on these successes to further institutionalize PEWS work in the field. We need to keep submitting grant proposals to the NSF and other appropriate funding sources, but we also must be willing to serve as reviewers for funding agencies. This ensures that PEWS-based proposals are reviewed by appropriate experts and, equally important, that those who write reviews learn more about the funding process and become more skillful in writing proposals to support their own work. These points apply equally well to submitting our work to and reviewing for mainstream sociology journals.

At our home institutions, we need to advocate for the hiring of PEWS researchers during the search process. Senior members of PEWS can also take on departmental leadership roles, as many of our Section colleagues have done in recent years. Established scholars in our Section have a long tradition of mentoring graduate students and junior faculty not just at their own institutions but also at other institutions without extensive traditions of PEWS work. I was fortunate to benefit from help from senior PEWS scholars at my own institution and at other universities while I was a junior faculty member; this type of support is critical to help graduate students and junior faculty build the networks essential to career success.

Looking to the future of the section, I have two questions for Section members. First, what could the PEWS Section of the ASA do to facilitate the work of our members? Efforts are underway to improve communication via work such as redesigning the website and soliciting information from members on their research to facilitate collaboration, but I would greatly appreciate any other suggestions regarding strategies for helping our members. Second, on a lighter but still very important note, what would members prefer for the location and format of the Section party at next year's ASA meeting? The Section party is always one of the highlights of the meeting for me, but, more importantly, the party is a key recruiting and socialization opportunity for new members, including graduate students and faculty with PEWS-related interests. I would like to know what you think would be the most enjoyable and welcoming format for the party.

I'll look forward to hearing from you!

Paul Ciccantell, Western Michigan University, PEWS Chair, paul.ciccantell@wmich.edu

## PEWS Roundtables: ASA 2011

Based on the resounding success of last year's round table session, The Political Economy of the World-System (PEWS) section of ASA is employing a similar format this year for round tables at the ASA annual meeting—a sort of hybrid of traditional sessions and round tables. In this design, some round tables will be reserved for more formally conceived topics, where the table organizer will select and recruit papers on the solicited topic, and also a more typical set of round tables in which the topics and papers will be selected by the PEWS round table committee from those submitted.

The theme for the 2011 conference is "Social Conflict: Multiple Dimensions and Arenas" but we welcome proposals for round tables on any theme or topic relevant to PEWS.

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## PEWS Roundtables: ASA 2011

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We hope you will participate in this format in one or more of the following ways:

1. Propose a topic and, if approved, organize a table on that topic, including recruiting and selecting papers, as well as acting as discussant;
2. Present a paper at a round table on your proposed and approved topic, alongside other papers solicited and selected by the PEWS round table committee;
3. Act as discussant at a round table on your proposed and approved topic, providing guidance as well as your expertise on papers submitted by other participants.

In options two and three, the PEWS round table organizing committee will attract papers by issuing a general call to the PEWS membership and across various academic list-serves for papers on your topic of interest. In these cases, the PEWS round table committee would select the papers to be included.

If you would like to join in these roundtable sessions, please contact us in a reply to this email by November 10 with a proposed topic and an indication of your preferred mode of participation. Regardless of how you choose to participate please rest assured that the round table organizers can assist with any questions or issues that may arise. We look forward to hearing from you.

PEWS Round Table Organizers,

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## Announcements!

- *The Journal of Peasant Studies* recently published a special issue on 'The Politics of Biofuels, Land and Agrarian Change', edited by Philip McMichael and Ian Scoones (vol 37, issue 4, October 2010). The collection addresses key questions on biofuels within agrarian political economy, political sociology and political ecology. Contributions are based on fresh empirical materials from different parts of the world. Sixteen articles present material from five regions across the North-South divide and focus on fourteen countries including Brazil, Indonesia, India, USA and Germany; these topics are addressed within the following themes: global (re)configurations; agro-ecological visions; conflicts, resistances and diverse outcomes; state, capital and society relations; mobilising opposition, creating alternatives; and change and continuity. Free to download for a limited time at: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/jps>
- Peter Wilkin is currently attempting to establish the *European Forum for World-Systems Analysis*. The aim of the forum is to promote discussion and contact between people in Europe who are interested in the nature of the Modern World-System. In the spirit of World-Systems Analysis it is not a forum rooted in any single discipline or outlook and will draw together scholars from a variety of disciplines: From Archaeology to Literary Studies to Political Economy and beyond. Membership is open to academics, students and any other interested people who want to engage in debate or research on issues to do with WSA, inequality and power. There is no charge for membership, all that is required is that you sign up with your email address and provide relevant contact details and a small biography of yourself to be added to the web site. The forum will publish an annual newsletter, provide an outlet for discussion and debate, the presentation of pieces of work or commentary upon contemporary issues, and it will aim to establish an annual European colloquium. This will, of course, all depend upon the response that the forum receives but the web site is under construction and should be up and running by the end of October at the latest. The address will be: [www.wsa-europeanforum.org](http://www.wsa-europeanforum.org). For more information, contact Peter Wilkin at: Peter.Wilkin@brunel.ac.uk



## **Call for Papers: National Borders in the 21st Century XXXVth Conference of the Political Economy of the World-System State University of New York – Stony Brook April 28 – 30, 2011**

The social sciences historically developed under the premise that societies are delineated by national boundaries. Nation-states and their governments are believed to be the primary sites of social action, thus processes within and interactions between them became the cornerstones of social-scientific analysis. Yet ongoing transformations in the ways national boundaries both shape and are shaped by economic, political, and cultural forces challenge perspectives that continue to see nationally bounded space as the only relevant one for societal and political action. As we begin the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, this conference will consider new ways of thinking about national borders – the analytical and empirical challenges, as well as the normative and political issues. How is law, work, identity, and community being affected by shifting meanings of borders? To what extent does social change, social justice, and collective action unfold inside (or outside, or across) national borders? This conference calls for papers under this general theme and that qualify under the following interrelated sub-themes:

### Sub-Theme #1: Rule of Power or Rule of Law? State Sovereignty and Global Governance

Will the 21<sup>st</sup> Century become a post-national era? While arguments surrounding the decline of the nation-state and the subordination of state sovereignty are not new, others claim that global processes are reasserting the importance of national borders. To what extent do territorial boundaries still determine the primary source of jurisdictional authority, the centralized means of violence, and the fundamental identity of individuals? Is the sovereignty based model of international law becoming superseded? In favor of what? Is there a future for transnational solidarity or effective democratization beyond the nation-state?

### Sub-Theme #2: Crossing Borders: Global Inequality and the Migration of People and Communities

According to the United Nations, close to 200 million people reside somewhere other than their country of origin; in the United States alone over 12 percent of current residents were born elsewhere. The unprecedented multidirectional movement of people around the world involves new patterns of transnational migration, identity, and community. At the same time many rights claims are about crossing borders – rights to mobility, rights of migrant labor, rights to economic opportunity, or to political asylum. What are the potential effects of migration for receiving as well as sending countries? How are states and other institutions regulating migration flows? What are the impacts for national politics as well as international economic inequality?

### Sub-Theme #3: Citizenship, and Human Rights

While citizenship previously existed only in the context of a national polity, human rights are increasingly being discussed as having a universal property. How is this dilemma – the innate human rights of people everywhere and the exclusive social rights of citizens of sovereign states – being renegotiated today? How are new forms of belonging and association operating on global, national, and local scales? How are new modes of inclusion and social closure operating in different geo-political contexts and under the aegis of a transnational Human Rights Regime?

### Sub-Theme #4: New Global Flows and Predicaments

To what extent are social problems, and activism mobilized to solve them, taking place in “debounded spaces?” How are intensified flows of illicit global commodities – drugs, arms, toxic waste, counterfeits, trafficked people – challenging the legal boundaries and property institutions of the nation-state system? Similarly, how are global environmental threats – warming, deforestation, pollution, food and water shortages – challenging the ability of self-interested nation-states to respond? Are new forms of political mobilization and transnational activism leading to transformations in cross-border communities and civil societies?

Please submit proposals electronically to Timothy P. Moran ([timothy.p.moran@stonybrook.edu](mailto:timothy.p.moran@stonybrook.edu)). Submissions should include a one-page proposal and full contact information for all authors by December 19, 2010. Accepted papers will be considered for a planned edited volume. Conference proceedings at Stony Brook University, SUNY with accommodation in quaint Port Jefferson Village, New York.





## Agenda for Social Justice: Call for Chapter Proposals

In 2004 and 2008, the SSSP and the Justice 21 Committee published the first two volumes of the *Agenda for Social Justice*. Those reports contained chapters on a variety of social problems, among them poverty, educational inequality, unemployment, environmental health risks, global economic change, capital punishment, post-Katrina disaster response, gender inequality in the criminal justice system, the vulnerability of ESL students in public schools, surveillance technologies, civil unions, domestic violence. We are now beginning our work on the third publication--*Agenda for Social Justice-2012*. This publication is designed to inform the public-at-large about the nation's most pressing social problems and to propose a public policy response to those problems. This project affirms the commitment of SSSP to social justice, and enables the members of the association to speak on public issues with the sponsorship of the corporate body. This report will be an "agenda for social justice," in that it will contain recommendations for action by elected officials, policy makers, and the public at large. The report will be distributed as widely as possible to policy makers, those in progressive media, and academics.

The quadrennial report will be a product of the most valid and reliable knowledge we have about social problems and it will be a joint effort of the members and Divisions of SSSP. We invite you to consider preparing a chapter for the 2012 publication. We ask you, individually or with colleagues, to consider submitting a brief proposal (1-2 pp) identifying a social problem of concern to members of SSSP, and respond to the questions: *What do we know? How do we know it? What is to be done?*

As the coordinating committee for Justice 21, we invite members to prepare a draft statement for a proposed contribution to the 2012 publication, tentatively to be produced and distributed by the Edwin Mellen Press (<http://www.mellenpress.com/>). For the 2012 edition, confirmed contributors include the following well-known sociologists: Frances Fox Piven, Alejandro Portes, and Amatai Etzioni. Please submit a copy of your 1-2 page proposals to each of the members of the committee by March 1, 2011, and contact us if you have questions or would like additional information. Final manuscripts will be due near the end of 2011, and will appear in print prior to the 2012 SSSP annual meetings in August 2012.

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For an expanded discussion of Justice 21, see the May 2001 issue of *Social Problems* ("Inventing Social Justice"). To see the 2004 and 2008 publications, see the SSSP website at the following address: <http://sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/323>

## Journal of Women's History: Call for Papers

For a special issue on "Human Rights, Global Congresses, and the Making of Postwar Transnational Feminisms," co-edited by Jean Quataert and Benita Roth, we invite authors to submit articles that address the historical dimensions of the intersection between human rights and transnational feminist organizing. We are particularly interested in pieces that explore the following question: "How did United Nations-sponsored World Conferences for women (beginning in 1975) and meetings of feminists at similarly large-scale congresses – for example at the World Social Forums beginning in 2001 – transform the landscape for transnational feminism in the post-World War II era?" Of particular interest to the editors are assessments of the tensions between universality and particularity in the making and sustaining of transnational feminist networks. We invite papers that trace centrifugal effects from the meetings outward to local organizing, or recursive effects from organizing on the local level feeding back into the large-scale congresses.

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## Journal of Women's History: Call for Papers

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Did the large global conferences impact relationships between feminist organizations and other non-governmental organizations? Did they transform the meaning of feminist organizing on the ground? Did these gatherings structure or restructure relationships between feminists and governmental entities? How did they shape relationships among feminists from different geographic and social locations? Were there specific feminist and women's issues that the meetings served to highlight or, conversely, that they repressed? As this broad call for articles for the special issue lends itself to feminist theoretical examinations of law, universalism, and possibilities for cross-cultural advocacy in their historical and social specificities, authors should confront relevant theories about feminist practices in the last half-century, particularly those that address the intersection of gender with class, ethnic, and racial identities. Authors should also place their analysis in its specific historical and social contexts. We encourage submissions from academics, activists, and meeting attendees.

The deadline for submissions is May 15, 2011. Submissions will be part of the regular review process employed by JWH. Please submit papers to both Jean Quataert ([profquat@binghamton.edu](mailto:profquat@binghamton.edu)) and Benita Roth ([broth@binghamton.edu](mailto:broth@binghamton.edu)). The special issue is slated to appear in September 2012.

## Awards and Recognitions

### PEWS Book Award

The Political Economy of the World-System Book Award is given each year in recognition of a monograph that exemplifies outstanding scholarship in global or comparative-international sociology. The winners of the 2010 PEWS Book Award are Roberto Patricio Korzeniewicz and Timothy Patrick Moran for "Unveiling Inequality: A World Historical Perspective."

Korzeniewicz, Roberto Patricio and Timothy Patrick Moran. 2009. *Unveiling Inequality: A World Historical Perspective*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

*Unveiling Inequality* is a succinct book that summarizes the important, and oftentimes technical, literature on global inequality for general scholarly readers. Yet it is not only an introductory text but also makes a significant contribution to explaining diverging patterns of inequality across countries from a world-historical and institutionalist perspective. In particular, the book explicates why some countries attain a high-inequality equilibrium and others attain a low-inequality equilibrium by looking at their positions and inter-relations in the stratified capitalist world-system. In so doing, the authors see the change in within-country inequality and between-country inequality not as two separate processes, as many in the field do, but as intertwined developments that have to be examined historically and holistically. In sum, the book is laudable for being able to summarize the literature and make a crucial contribution while avoiding jargon and technical formulations that are obscure to non-experts, hence making the frontier of world-system analysis on income inequality accessible to a wide social scientific audience.

### Honorable Mention for PEWS Book Award

We would like to recognize Jackie Smith for "Social Movements for Global Democracy" as an honorable mention in the PEWS Book Award competition.

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

*Social Movements for Global Democracy* is a theoretically compelling book that offers an alternative conceptualization of the globalization of both social movements and of capital as competing global networks. The book addresses an area of rapidly growing intellectual and political interest in world-systems theory, the development of social movements formed in response to many of the negative impacts of the capitalist world-economy. The focus is on extending the social movements literature and, to a lesser extent, the organizational literature to examining what she conceptualizes as the network of social movements around the world that are addressing the broad issue of democratic alternatives to capitalist globalization. Smith's use of social movement theory and network analysis to develop tools is potentially quite important. The comparison of the two types of networks is an interesting conceptual tool. This is an excellent summary of work in this area and a very well-written book.



## Awards and Recognitions

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### PEWS Article Award

The Political Economy of the World-System Article Award is given each year to an article of exceptional scholarship on global, international, or comparative sociology concerned with the relationship between domestic and global social, economic, and political processes. The winner of the 2010 PEWS Article Award is Andrew Schrank, for his 2008 article, entitled "Homeward Bound? Interest, Identity, and Investor Behavior in a Third World Export Platform."

Schrank, Andrew. 2008. "Homeward Bound? Interest, Identity, and Investor Behavior in a Third World Export Platform." *American Journal of Sociology* 114(1): 1-34.

Schrank uses a masterful combination of quantitative and qualitative analyses to show that domestic capitalists are more likely to contribute to the development of developing countries than are transnational capitalists. This point had been established by sociologists such as Peter Evans in the 1970s, but that was before neoliberalism, globalization, and the WTO. Schrank analyzes the survival rates of foreign- and domestically-owned firms in the largest EPZ in the Dominican Republic in the turbulent years between the start of NAFTA in 1994 and the beginning of CAFTA in 2006. During this period, Mexico's duty-free access to the US market gave it a clear advantage over other countries in the region. He finds that domestic firms were more likely to stay in the DR through these years, because they had linkages to local elites who could help them to adapt and survive. Tellingly, when domestic firms encountered problems, they turned to their patrons in the elite for assistance; when foreign firms had problems, they turned to the US embassy. But as Schrank points out, Mexico also had a US embassy, making it easier for the foreign firms to pack up and leave. Further, the foreign firms had already learned how to move and set up production in other countries, while the local capitalists had not. They face much higher perceived "intercultural transaction costs." But the domestic firms did not just stand pat; they had to adapt to a changing environment. They achieved competitive advantage by upgrading their production and specializing in men's non-wrinkle casual pants. This upgrading spawned forward and backward linkages to the local economy, raising the domestic content of garments produced in the zone to 49%, and contributing to the DR's economic growth.

### Honorable Mention for PEWS Article Award

We would like to acknowledge outstanding work by Karin Roseblatt for her article, "Other Americas: Transnationalism, Scholarship, and the Culture of Poverty in Mexico and the United States."

Roseblatt, Karin. 2009. "Other Americas: Transnationalism, Scholarship, and the Culture of Poverty in Mexico and the United States." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 89(4): 603-642.

Roseblatt writes a compelling piece examining race, class, and gender and how the "culture of poverty" lost its critique of capitalism and class as the idea travelled from Mexico to the United States. Instead, the "culture of poverty" was reduced to a concept for understanding race, and was used as patriarchal and paternalist critique of black families. Roseblatt's work is fascinating, as she follows the origins of the "culture of poverty" amongst Mexican scholars (e.g. Manuel Gamio and Alfonso Caso), who conceptualized culture and poverty as connected to world economic processes. From such a perspective, it was possible to ameliorate poverty through state intervention. Roseblatt continues her analysis by following how U.S. anthropologist Oscar Lewis adopted the "culture of poverty," how he applied it in his scholarship, and how he ultimately adjusted its application as the idea was co-opted in the U.S. political scene. As it was co-opted, the notion of "culture" lost its connection to the economic system and was reduced to a problem of (racialized) individuals. It is an impressive piece of historical scholarship from which one learns about the process of unequal intellectual exchange between core and periphery.

### Best Research Paper Award: World Society Foundation

Ho-fung Hung's paper, "Global Crisis, China, and the Strange Death of the East Asian Developmental Model," has won the first prize of the Best Research Paper Award 2010 of World Society Foundation, Switzerland. Congrats!





## PEWS Membership Spotlight

*As a new section of the PEWS Newsletter, the “PEWS Membership Spotlight” highlights a handful of current PEWS members and their research interests. This segment seeks to increase collaboration and community among the PEWS association.*

### **Rob Clark**

Assistant Professor, University of Oklahoma; PEWS member since 2007

My research examines socio-economic development in a macro comparative context. In one series of studies, I employ social network analysis to examine the impact of a state’s structural location in international trade on economic growth. In one study, co-authored with Jason Beckfield (Harvard University), we construct a new trichotomous measure of world-system position and demonstrate its utility in a series of growth models. In another, I am working with Matthew Mahutga (University of California-Riverside) on a project that examines whether the growth effects from international trade are maximized by exchange with central or isolated partners. In a second series of studies, I examine human rights outcomes, considering the role of domestic institutions (e.g., mass media) and international relations (e.g., INGO memberships, migration, and network ties in international telecommunications) in shaping a state’s human rights record and child labor practices. Finally, in a third strand of research, I am developing a series of narratives that help explain world levels of inequality across several dimensions of socio-economic development, including income, life expectancy, infant mortality, and political freedom.

### **Jason Beckfield**

Assistant Professor, Harvard University; PEWS member since 2001

I am interested in the relationships between changing patterns of social inequalities and changing relations among nation-states in the global political economy. Specifically, I am currently investigating (1) the changing structure of the network of intergovernmental organizations and states, and what that changing structure means for transnational convergence and divergence; (2) social inequalities in health and how they relate to cross-national differences and historical changes in political institutions; and (3) the consequences of regional political and economic integration for inequality and the welfare state in Europe. Related projects, including ongoing and published collaborative work with Arthur Alderson, David Brady, Robert Clark, Jocelyn Viterna, and Katy Fallon have addressed the structure of the world city system, the relationship between globalization and the welfare state, measurement of world-system position, and the role of democratization in female legislative representation. Two articles published in 2010 are “The Social Structure of the World Polity,” in the *American Journal of Sociology*, and “Inter-City Relations and Globalization: The Evolution of the Global Urban Hierarchy, 1981-2007” (co-authored with Arthur Alderson and Jessica Sprague-Jones), in *Urban Studies*.

### **Brent Z. Kaup**

Assistant Professor, College of William & Mary; PEWS member since 2008

My research broadly examines the financial, material, and geopolitical factors that drive global increases in natural resource extraction. I am currently working on a book manuscript in which I explore the struggles between the Bolivian state, its social movements, and transnational energy firms to control—and reap the benefits from—the oil and natural gas reserves that lie beneath the country’s soil. I also have two other projects in the works. In one, I seek to explain what drives changes in the markets of energy resources by analyzing the struggles of transnational energy firms, energy producing regions, and energy demanding regions to incorporate different fuel sources into the global energy market. In the other, I examine how the privatization of garbage collection, the consolidation of the garbage industry, and birth of mega-landfills have affected the people and places who are “down in the dumps” at the end of the trash commodity chain.

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## PEWS Membership Spotlight

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### Roy Kwon

PhD Candidate, University of California, Riverside; PEWS member since 2008

I am currently working on my dissertation which uses a comparative world-systems approach to study the relationship between political and economic globalization. Grounded in historical and empirical research that was partially funded by the Program on Global Studies at the University of California, Riverside, this project examines the hegemony–trade relationship since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. I am also involved in two major research projects as a research associate at the Institute for Research on World-Systems, the first of which examines global within-country income inequality (with Matthew Mahutga) while the second analyzes US hegemonic decline and the current financial crisis from a historical comparative perspective (with Christopher Chase-Dunn).

### Adam Driscoll

PhD Candidate, North Carolina State University; PEWS member since 2008

My research interests broadly include the intersection of global social change and the environment, with a particular focus on agricultural processes and food systems. I am currently working on two research projects at North Carolina State University, both of which utilize a historical research approach. The first concerns the transformation of North Carolina's swine industry in the 1990s. Working with Brett Clark, I utilize a political-economic approach to identify the social processes driving the mechanization and consolidation of this industry while exploring the various environmental disruptions caused by this change. The second research project analyzes the historical role played by the naval stores industry in structuring the economic development of Eastern North Carolina. Working with Ed Kick, I use world-systems and dependency approaches to explore the ways in which this region has served as a peripheral source of raw materials for both the British empire and the ascendant semi-peripheral Northeastern United States as well as how that historical role has served to hinder the area's economic growth.

## Job Announcements

### Arizona State University

The New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences (New College), Arizona State University at the West campus, invites applications and nominations for the position of Associate Dean. Founded in 1984, New College is the core college on ASU's West campus and consists of three divisions – Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies; Social and Behavioral Sciences; and Mathematical and Natural Sciences – offering 21 bachelor's degrees, numerous minors and certificate programs, and 5 master's degrees. The Associate Dean reports directly to the Dean and serves as a member of an active, engaged senior staff in the College. The College is seeking an innovative, dynamic, and entrepreneurial individual to provide senior level administrative expertise to the Dean and Academic Division Directors on a regular basis. The successful candidate will be a visionary leader with proven skills in academic administration, strategic planning, resource management, and program development, and will be able to promote disciplinary excellence and visibility while stimulating interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and cross-disciplinary interactions and encouraging new opportunities for research, teaching, and service. Required qualifications: PhD in college appropriate discipline (Arts & Sciences) and eligibility to be appointed at the rank of full professor. Candidates will have a record of excellence in scholarship and teaching that would merit a tenured faculty appointment at the rank of Professor in one of the disciplines in the College. Desired qualifications: The Associate Dean will be highly motivated, collaborative, articulate, forward thinking and creative, with good judgment, strong interpersonal skills, a commitment to liberal arts education, and experience leading change within a dynamic academic environment. Application procedure: Send electronically: a letter of application, describing your administrative philosophy and achievements, teaching philosophy and research program; unofficial transcripts; curriculum vitae; and a list of four references to [Jamie.Howell@asu.edu](mailto:Jamie.Howell@asu.edu), reference job #9607. Application deadline: December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 or every other Monday until position is closed. For more information, visit the New College job page at <http://newcollege.asu.edu/jobs/>

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## Job Announcements

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#### University of Colorado at Boulder

The Department of Sociology at the University of Colorado at Boulder invites applications for a tenure-track position in Environmental Sociology. We anticipate hiring at the assistant professor level, although applications at other levels will be considered from those who would strengthen the Department's diversity. The position requires a Ph.D. in Sociology (or closely related discipline), and demonstrated competence in the area of Environmental Sociology. Candidates who are close to finishing their Ph.D.s are also encouraged to apply. The successful candidate is expected to meet multiple departmental needs, including teaching at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Review of applications will begin on October 22, 2010. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The University of Colorado at Boulder is committed to diversity and equality in education and employment. Members of underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply. Applications are accepted electronically at <https://www.jobsatcu.com>, posting #810877, which should include a letter of interest, along with a current CV, writing samples, and evidence of teaching effectiveness. Candidates should also have three letters of recommendation submitted to JobsAtCU. Please direct inquiries to Environmental Sociology Search Committee, Department of Sociology, 327 UCB, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0327. See [www.colorado.edu/ArtsSciences/Jobs/](http://www.colorado.edu/ArtsSciences/Jobs/) for full job description.

#### Boston College

The Department of Sociology and the International Studies Program at Boston College invite applications for a tenure track assistant professor position with a cutting-edge research program in any of the following three areas: immigration, global environmental sociology, or global social movements. Scholars with expertise in any geographic area of the world are invited to apply. Scholars with substantive interest in: gender, race, class, sexuality, or religion/religious communities are particularly encouraged to apply. The tenure line is housed in the Sociology Department. The position, which begins in the Fall of 2011, entails half-time teaching in International Studies, which is an undergraduate major, and half-time graduate and undergraduate teaching in the Department of Sociology. Applications should be submitted electronically to [soc-chair@bc.edu](mailto:soc-chair@bc.edu). Potential applicants should email one attached pdf document containing the following: a cover letter that describes your research and teaching accomplishments and plans, current CV, and 2 pieces of recent scholarship. Applicants should arrange to have three letters of reference, also in pdf format, emailed to the same address. These references should be named in the letter of application. Review of applications will begin on October 1, 2010 and continue until the position is filled. Boston College is an Affirmation Action/Equal Opportunity employer. Applications from scholars of color and women are strongly encouraged.

#### American University

The Department of Sociology at American University (Washington, D.C.), College of Arts and Sciences, invites applications for a tenure line appointment beginning in Fall 2011 for an advanced Assistant or Associate Professor. In conjunction with the establishment of an area of concentration in the sociology of health and a new research unit, the Center on Health, Risk and Society, the Department seeks candidates with a primary area of specialization in the social dimensions of health and with emphasis on public or applied sociology or social policy related to health. Secondary specializations to complement teaching and research on health include: global or transnational sociology, social inequalities/poverty, sociological theory and/or research methods. The successful candidate will have achieved professional recognition based on a strong record of publications and will be able to demonstrate excellence in teaching. She or he will also have experience as an Investigator or Principal Investigator on externally funded research in the area of specialization. Duties will include maintaining an active research program and teaching two courses per semester with at least one course each academic year at the graduate level in the area of specialization. Send curriculum vitae, letter describing interests, research and teaching experience, including teaching evaluations (if available), (p)reprints, and three letters of reference to: Search Committee Chair, Department of Sociology, American University, 4400 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20016. Review of applications will begin by October 17, 2010 and will continue until the position is filled. American University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer, committed to a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. Women and minority candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. American University offers employee benefits to same-sex domestic partners of employees and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation/preference and gender identity/expression.

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## Job Announcements

### Continued from page 11

#### Colgate University

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Colgate University invites applications for a tenure-stream position in Sociology at the level of Assistant Professor (Ph.D. expected by time of appointment) to commence in the Fall, 2011 semester. The Department invites applications from candidates with an expertise in quantitative research methods. Competitive candidates would have expertise in one or more of the following areas: Immigration and Immigrant Communities, Urban Sociology, Economic Sociology, Political Sociology/Social Movements, and Deviance/Criminology. Teaching duties will include Research Methods. All Colgate University faculty are expected to participate in all-University programs, which includes the Liberal Arts Core Curriculum. Review of applications will begin October 29, 2010. Send letter of application, c.v., brief statement of teaching philosophy, and one article-length writing sample, and have three letters of recommendation sent to: Professor Rhonda F. Levine, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Colgate University, 13 Oak Drive, Hamilton, NY 13346. Colgate is a highly selective, liberal arts college located in central New York. Women and minority scholars are especially encouraged to apply. Colgate is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Developing and sustaining a diverse faculty, staff, and student body further the University's educational mission. Applicants with dual-career considerations can find postings of other employment opportunities at Colgate and at other institutions of higher education in upstate New York at [www.upstatenyherc.org](http://www.upstatenyherc.org).

#### Binghamton University

The Department of Sociology at Binghamton University is seeking to recruit a tenure-track assistant professor whose work in urban studies is consonant with our internationally recognized program in world-historical sociology. Applicants with degrees from any related discipline are welcomed. Applicants should send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, three letters of reference, and samples of written work to: Chair, Personnel Committee, Department of Sociology, Binghamton University, PO Box 6000, Binghamton NY 13902-6000. Screening of applications will begin on November 5, 2010 and continue till the position is filled. Binghamton University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

#### University of North Carolina Greensboro

The Department of Sociology invites applications for a full-time tenure-track position at the rank of Assistant Professor. We seek a cultural sociologist whose work has a strong international component and will contribute to our existing global social problems concentration. We have a special interest in candidates with expertise in Latin America. Candidates must hold or anticipate a Ph.D. in Sociology by August 1, 2011. UNC Greensboro is a growing research university with approximately 18,500 undergraduate and graduate students and has recently been awarded a Carnegie classification of a university with "high research activity." It is located in a metropolitan area of 1.2 million in the Piedmont region of North Carolina between the Atlantic Ocean and the Appalachian mountains. The Department of Sociology offers the B.A. and M.A. degrees and currently has fourteen full-time tenure-track faculty. UNC Greensboro is especially proud of the diversity of its student body and we seek to attract an equally diverse applicant pool for this position, including women and members of minority groups. We are an EEO/AA employer with a strong commitment to increasing faculty diversity. To apply, send electronically (1) a letter of application, (2) curriculum vitae, (3) writing sample, and (4) at least three letters of recommendation to: [socsearch1664@gmail.com](mailto:socsearch1664@gmail.com). Initial review of applications will begin November 15, 2010 and continue until the position is filled.

#### Illinois State University, Bloomington/Normal

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor position in sociology, with expertise in the sociology of environment and sustainability. The successful candidate will have a well-defined research agenda and a record of successful teaching in the area of expertise. Teaching additional core courses in the major is expected, with special consideration for research methods and/or statistics. Opportunities to work collaboratively with the Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development are available. Appointment begins on August 16, 2011; completion of the Ph.D. in sociology is expected by that date. Review of applications will begin October 8, 2010 and continue until position is filled. To assure full consideration, send letter of application, curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation, examples of scholarly work, and evidence of teaching effectiveness by October 8 to: #03392 Search Committee, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Campus Box 4660, Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61790-4660. Inquiries may be directed to [memccomb@ilstu.edu](mailto:memccomb@ilstu.edu).

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## Job Announcements

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### California State University, Los Angeles

Department of Sociology and Latin American Studies Program seeks applications for a Tenure-Track Assistant Professor position with primary specialization in globalization, and secondary specializations in sociology of human rights or international law, with emphasis on Latin America. This joint position is two-thirds time in Sociology, one-third time in the interdisciplinary Latin American Studies program, and will involve teaching courses in both programs. In addition to teaching, duties include student advising and committee service for the Department of Sociology and the Latin American Studies Program, College of Natural and Social Sciences, and University. Initial salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. The starting date is September 2011. Minimum Qualifications: Ph.D. or ABD in Sociology. A Ph.D. from an accredited institution of higher education is required for retention. Candidates should provide a record of or evidence of potential for scholarly publication and activity in the field of globalization with secondary specializations in the sociology of human rights or international law, with emphasis on Latin America. Research should involve students whenever possible. Candidates should provide evidence of demonstrated potential for effective teaching involving a variety of methods. Candidates should also demonstrate an ability or interest in teaching in a multicultural, multiethnic campus. Would prefer demonstrated success in research and publication, grant funding, academic advising, and committee service. Please submit a letter of application, curriculum vita, transcripts showing highest degree earned, three letters of recommendation, and the University's Application for Academic Employment form [http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/hrm/docs/forms/Empl\\_applic\\_academic.pdf](http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/hrm/docs/forms/Empl_applic_academic.pdf). The application deadline is November 15, 2010. Address application with required documentation and requests for information to: Steve Gordon at the Department of Sociology, California State University, Los Angeles; 5151 State University Drive; Los Angeles, CA 90032- 8228.

### Temple University

The Department of Sociology at Temple University has an opening for a tenure-track Assistant Professor for Fall 2011. We seek a scholar who studies the global inter-relationship of economic, social, and political processes occurring at the national, regional, and local levels. Of particular value would be someone with a research program encompassing issues concerning health, education, the environment, politics, or development. This faculty member is expected to teach undergraduate and graduate survey courses on globalization and development as well as specialized and advanced courses in their interest area(s). We are a collegial department in a great city and Temple is a wonderful place to practice sociology. Applicants should submit a letter of intent, a curriculum vitae, samples of written work, and a teaching portfolio. Three confidential letters of reference should also be sent to the department chair, Professor Robert Kaufman c/o Cathy Staples, Coordinator, Department of Sociology, Gladfelter Hall, 7th floor, 1115 West Polett Walk, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA 19122. Deadline for applications is October 31, 2010. Temple University is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and we welcome applicants from underrepresented groups.

## Recent Publications

### Books:

Gates, Leslie C. 2010. *Electing Chavez: The Business of Anti-neoliberal Politics in Venezuela*. Pittsburgh, PA: Pitt Latin American Series, University of Pittsburgh Press.

Lim, Hyun-Chin, Wolf Schafer and Suk-Man Hwang. 2010 *New Asias: The Global Future of World Regions*. Seoul: Seoul National University Press.

McMichael, Philip. 2009. *Contesting Development: Critical Struggles for Social Change*. New York: Routledge Press.

Wilkin, Peter. 2010. *The Strange Case of Tory Anarchism*. London: Libri Press.

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## Recent Publications

### Continued from page 13

#### Articles:

- Austin, Kelly. 2010. "Soybean Exports and Deforestation from a World-Systems Perspective: A Cross-National Investigation of Comparative Disadvantage." *The Sociological Quarterly* 51(3): 511-536.
- Austin, Kelly. 2010. "The 'Hamburger Connection' as Ecologically Unequal Exchange: A Cross-National Investigation of Beef Exports and Deforestation in Less-Developed Countries." *Rural Sociology* 75(2): 270-299.
- Calderón-Zaks, Michael. 2010. "Domestic Colonialism: The Overlooked Significance of Robert L. Allen's Contributions." *The Black Scholar* 40(2): 39-48.
- Dill, Brian. 2010. "Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and Norms of Participation in Tanzania: Working Against the Grain." *African Studies Review* 53(2): 23-48.
- Dorius, Shawn F. and Glenn Firebaugh. 2010. "Trends in Global Gender Inequality." *Social Forces* 88(5): 1941-1968.
- Gareau, Brian J. 2010. "A Critical Review of the Successful CFC Phase-Out versus the Delayed Methyl Bromide Phase-Out in the Montreal Protocol." *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law, and Economics* 10(3): 209-231
- Kaup, Brent Z. 2010. "A Neoliberal Nationalization: The Constraints to Natural Gas Led Development in Bolivia." *Latin American Perspectives* 37(3): 123-138.
- Salleh, Ariel. 2010. "From Metabolic Rift to Metabolic Value: Reflections on Environmental Sociology and the Alternative Globalization Movement." *Organization & Environment* 23(2): 205-219.
- Salleh, Ariel. 2010. "Embodied Materialism in Action." *Polygraph: Special issue on Ecology and Ideology* 22: 183-199: <[www.duke.edu/web/polygraph/cfp.html](http://www.duke.edu/web/polygraph/cfp.html)>
- Salleh, Ariel. 2010. "Green New Deal - or Globalisation Lite." *Arena Magazine* 105: 15-19.
- Salleh, Ariel. 2010. "How the Ecological Footprint is Sex-Gendered: Implications for an Eco-Socialist Theory and Praxis" in *Eco-Socialism as Politics*, edited by Q. Huan. Dordrecht: Springer Press.
- Salleh, Ariel. 2010. "El Movimiento Ecofeminista y la Economía Solidaria" *Veredas*, No. 21.
- Wilkin, Peter. 2009. "Are You Sitting Comfortably? The Political Economy of the Body." *Journal of Sociology of Health and Illness* 31(1): 35-50.

## Appendix A: References

### What Can the World-System Approach Teach Us About the Current Financial Crisis?

- Bass, Kyle. 2008. "Letter to Investors." Hayman Advisors, October 14, 2008. Retrieved September 15, 2010 (<http://dealbreaker.com/2008/10/dear-hayman-investors/>)
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- Wyly, Elvin, Markus Moos, Daniel Hammel and Emanuel Kabahizi. 2009. "Cartographies of Race and Class: Mapping the Class-Monopoly Rents of American Subprime Mortgage Capital." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 33:332 – 354.



Fall 2010

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## PEWS NEWS

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Please submit articles/announcements  
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*Special thanks to the contributors and those who  
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Brent Kaup, Roy Kwon, and Adam Driscoll*

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