

Spring 2017

PEWS NEWS

Political Economy of the World-System

American Sociological Association

Volume 17 | Issue 2

Interview with PEWS Chair, John Talbot

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How do you see world-systems scholarship developing over the next several years? How do you think events occurring around the world (Brexit, the 2016 elections, refugee crisis, etc.) will shape the trajectory of world-systems research?

Sociological research tends to develop in response to changes in society; it seeks to understand and explain emerging trends, new phenomena, or changes in patterns of social relations. Given the changes the world is currently experiencing, I expect the coming decade or two to be exciting times for world-systems research; we need world-systems research to help us understand what's going on. I take two of the defining characteristics of the WS perspective to be a belief that the world is one integrated social system which has been in existence for a very long time (how long is an empirical question) and a belief that this system evolves through some combination of secular trends and cyclical patterns. We have clearly come to the end of the latest cycle of US hegemony and are descending into a period of systemic chaos. The most basic question is, what will come out of this period of chaos? The eventual rise of a new hegemon that will lead the world out of chaos into another period of relative stability? The collapse of the system and its replacement by a completely different type of system? Or something else that we can't even conceive at this point? It will be determined by the collective actions (or inactions) of all of us over the next couple of decades.

Interview Continued...

So what can world-systems analysis contribute to our understanding? Let me focus on three illustrative examples. One way is by comparing the current chaos to the previous period of chaos after the end of British hegemony, or to earlier periods. This line of questioning is why Karl Polanyi went from obscure academic about 30 years ago to required reading today. This line is followed by one of our session topics at ASA: Populism in the World-System. Populism seems to be a response to economic stagnation in core countries. What populist upsurges occurred during previous periods of chaos and how does the one we're seeing now compare to those? Does that help us to understand how the current surge might evolve or how to combat it?

Second, how are enduring structures of the world system being destabilized or reconstituted in the current chaos? First it looked like Greece would be forced out of the EU, then Britain voted to leave, and now the question is not how much further will it expand but will it survive at all? China seems to be attempting to reconstruct the Chinese Empire beginning in the South China Sea and Russia to reconstruct the Soviet Union beginning in Ukraine. What are the implications for shifting geopolitical alliances? Borders drawn by the colonizers are beginning to break down, most notably in the Middle East, but also Eritrea and South Sudan. The rise of China and possibly India as world economic powers threatens to destabilize the three-tiered structure of the world economy, because of their massive populations. This is the theme of another of our ASA sessions, World-System Disorder.

The environmental crisis seems certain to play a huge role in how, or whether, the world will emerge from the current chaos. Jason Moore has broadened this concern into a question regarding the violent nature of capitalism as a system for extracting unpaid work and energy from "women, nature and colonies," the theme for our third session. This perspective focuses on social and socio-ecological reproduction; Arrighi's theory of systemic cycles suggests that, if a new hegemonic power does succeed in rising out of the chaos, the organizational innovation that will allow it to succeed will be a means of internalizing the costs of reproduction.

So I am quite optimistic about the future of world-systems research. In the same way that we have no idea how the next couple of decades of world history will unfold, we have no idea how the next couple of decades of world-systems research will unfold. Theories, in order to remain relevant, have to evolve along with the social phenomena they seek to explain. During the next couple of decades, empirical reality will give us many

opportunities to challenge and reformulate even the most basic principles of a world-systems perspective. It will be an exciting time to be a world-systemista.

Are there any important initiatives or issues occurring in ASA that are of interest to PEWS members?

There is one development we should keep an eye on, although it doesn't affect us now. The ASA Committees on Publications and on Executive Office and Budget are proposing that, in the future, any ASA sections approved to sponsor an ASA journal should have their dues raised by \$2, with this money going to ASA to compensate them for services they provide to the section journals. In the proposal, it is stated that it will not apply to the current section journals, including *JWSR*. This is why I say that it doesn't affect us now, but we need to keep an eye on it. There is nothing to prevent ASA committees in the future from changing this policy to apply to *JWSR*; and one of the problems in organizations like this one is that the elected officers turn over continually and the institutional history and reasons for doing things in a certain way tend to get lost over time.

The rationale for this policy is that the ASA office provides services to the section journals. But the committees making this proposal are thinking about traditional print journals. So, among the services that they state ASA provides are, "interfacing with publishers for production and distribution, and managing the storage and shipment of back issues." *JWSR*, as an online, open-access journal, doesn't need these services, and so costs the ASA office less than the other section journals.

The PEWS Publications Committee, in consultation with the Council, sent ASA a response to this proposal, asking that the policy that is adopted state explicitly that it does not apply to the current four section journals, including *JWSR*, and that it state a rationale for this, so that it will be clear to future ASA committees that the policy was never intended to apply to us. Second, we asked that the policy recognize the difference between traditional print journals and open-access, online journals; in particular, that the latter are less costly for the ASA office.

Interview by Samantha Fox, Binghamton University

PEWS Events at ASA 2017 Montreal

Saturday August 19

8:30 – 10:10 Populist Politics in the World-System

Organizer: Jennifer L. Bair, University of Virginia

“Crisis of Hegemony, Authoritarian Populism and Anti-Kurdish Riots in Turkey” Sefika Kumral, Johns Hopkins University

“The Two Faces of Populism” Gabriel Hetland, University at Albany

“Interpreting Divergent Anti-Establishment Politics: Mexico, Venezuela and the World-System” Leslie C. Gates, Binghamton University

“A Departure from Political Ideologies: The Effects of Political Engagement and Economic Uncertainties in Europe” Kwan Woo Kim, Harvard University

Discussant: Robert S. Jansen, University of Michigan

10:30 – 11:30 PEWS Roundtables

Organizers: Samantha K. Fox, Binghamton University and Marilyn Grell-Brisk, Universite de Neuchatel

Table 1: Capitalism and Crisis

“A World of Vampires? Exploring the Geography of Financialization” Matthew Soener, The Ohio State University

“Dispossessions in Historical Capitalism: Expansion or Exhaustion of the System?” Daniel Bin, University of Brasilia

“How to Get Away with Murder in Russia: Population-based Survey Experiment” Elena Sirotkina, Higher School of Economics; Margarita Zavadskaya

“Sacred Markets: Neoliberalism and Its Religious Foundations in the US” Joshua Daniel Tuttle, George Mason University

“Scarcity Capitalism: A Boost for Authoritarian Regimes?” Antonia Gelis-Filho, Fundacao Getulio Vargas

Table 2: Development

“Embedded Aid: Do Donor and Recipient Connectedness to Global Networks Matter for Foreign Aid Allocation?” Michaela Kathleen Curran, University of California, Riverside; Ronald Kwon, University of California, Riverside

“Interrogating the China Model of Development” Alvin Y. So, Hong Kong University; Yin-wah Chu, Hong Kong Baptist University

“Generalized and Particularized Trust: Association with Attitudes towards Welfare State” Pui Yin Cheung, Indiana University, Bloomington

Table 3: Environment

“California’s Neoliberal Trajectory: Crisis, Environmental Injustice and Water Banking” David Champagne, University of British Columbia

“Explaining Labor Welfare in Southeast Asia: Following Paternalistic Labor Relations in Rubber Plantations” Rahardhika Arista Utama, Northwestern University

“Resisting Mining in Mexico’s Special Economic Zone: Renewed Ethnic Identity as a Motivation for High-Risk Activism” Alessandro Morosin, University of California, Riverside

“Examining Intersectionality in the Movement in Defense of Life in Guatemala” Samantha K. Fox, Binghamton University

Table 4: Organizations and Health

“Intergovernmental Organizations and the Diffusion and Consolidation of Democracy, 1972-2008” Lori Diane Smith, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico

“The Integration and Centralization of the Intergovernmental Organization Network, 1919-2017” Alexis Antonio Alvarez, University of California, Riverside

“Individual Public Attitudes towards Financing of Public Health Care Systems: Self-Interest, Deservingness, Altruism and Ideology” Ariel Azar, Pontifica Universidad Catolica de Chile; Luis Maldonado

11:30 – 12:10 PEWS Business Meeting

2:30 – 4:10 Women, Nature and Colonies: Unpaid Work and World Accumulation 1492-2017

Organizer: Jason W. Moore, Binghamton University

“Agricultural Revolutions in America’s Heartland: The Unpaid Work of Women, Children and Soils” Ben Marley, Binghamton University

“Changing Modes of Labor Reproduction and Regimes of Accumulation during China’s Socialist Industrialization (1949-2010) Yige Dong, Johns Hopkins University

“Pathways of Appropriation, Food Regimes, and Unpaid Work in Late Colonial Philippines” Alvin Camba, Johns Hopkins University

“Proletarianization and the Postwar Baby Boom in the United States” Andrew J. Pragacz, Binghamton University

“The Colonial Domestic Imaginary: Peruvian Labor Law and the Household Worker” Katherine Maich, University of California, Berkeley

4:30 – 6:10 World-System Disorder

Organizer: Albert J. Bergesen, University of Arizona

“Growing Global Disorder and Nationalism in the 21st Century: Financialization, Social Unrest, and World Hegemonic Crisis” Sahan Savas Karatasli, Princeton University

“Macrosociology of Terrorism” Samuel Cohn, Texas A&M University

“Trends in World-Economic Volatility: Development in World-Historical Perspective, 1820 to 2008” Daniel Pasciuti, Georgia State University

“World-System, Polity and Terrorism 1994-2012: A Longitudinal Study of Terrorism Using World Market and Trade Determinants” Abolfazl Sotoudeh-Sherbaf, Boston College

6:30 – 8:10 PEWS Reception

Sunday August 20

8:30 – 10:10 Regular Session: New Directions in the Study of the World-System: Nature, Materials, Justice

Organizer: Jason G. Cons, University of Texas at Austin

“Anthropocene or Capitalocene? Nature in the Making and Unmasking of Historical Capitalism” Jason W. Moore, Binghamton University

“Raw Materials and Resistance in Capitalist Commodity Chains” Elizabeth Sowers, California State University, Channel Islands; Paul S. Ciccantell, Western Michigan University; David A. Smith, University of California, Irvine

“Responsive Resistance: Conceptualizing Agency in the World System – The Case of Climate Debt” David M. Ciptlet, University of Colorado, Boulder

“The Bhopal Movement: Struggles for Justice in the World-System” Nikhilendu Deb, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

“The Geopolitics of Grains: Biotechnology and Grains for Feed and Food in the World Economy” Bill Winders, Georgia Institute of Technology

Conference Announcements:

Global Social Movements: Left and Right

University of California, Berkeley

Clark Kerr Campus

June 14-16, 2017

Now accepting 100-word abstracts by May 12, 2017 on all topics examining aspects of globalization.

Send your abstract, full name, affiliation, and current email address in the body of an email to Jerry Harris at gharris234@comcast.net.

Democracy Convention III - August 2-6, 2017

www.DemocracyConvention.org

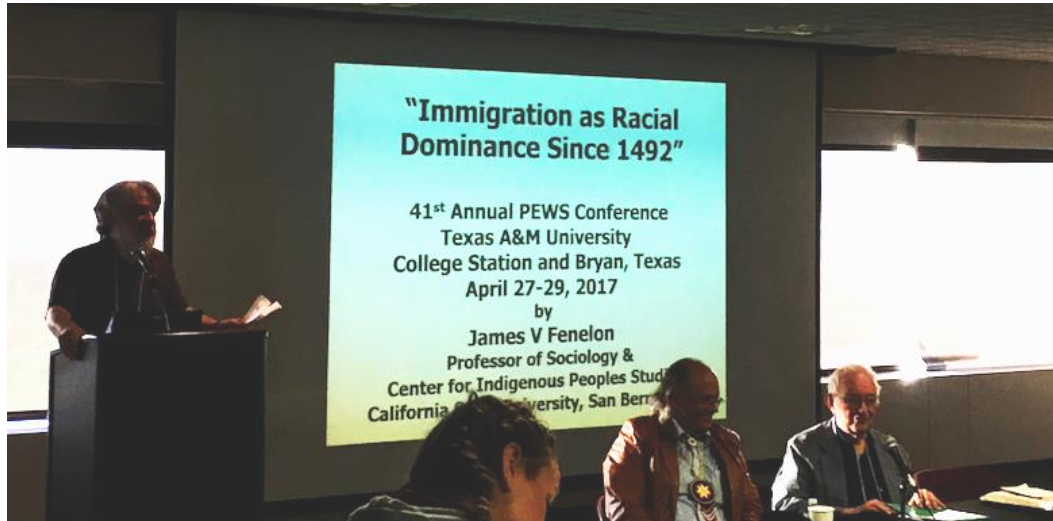
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Minneapolis Campus

The Democracy Conventions bring together policymakers, community leaders, and researchers working to strengthen democracy where it matters most: in the institutions and the daily life that constitute U.S. society. As the progressive reformer Robert M. La Follette wrote, "democracy is a life [that] involves constant struggle" in all sectors of society. The Democracy Convention recognizes the importance of each separate democracy struggle, as well as the need to unite them all in a common movement for democracy in the United States. More than a single event, therefore, the Democracy Convention houses nine conferences under one roof. This year, these will include the Community & Economic Democracy, Democratizing the Constitution, Earth Democracy, Education for Democracy, Global Democracy, Media Democracy, Peace & Democracy, Race & Democracy, and Representative Democracy conferences.

To register or to find more information,
see <http://www.DemocracyConvention.org>

The theme of the 41st Annual Conference on the Political Economy of the World-System (PEWS) is “Migration in the World-system.” The conference will be held at Texas A&M University (College Station, TX, USA) on April 28-29, 2017.

Conference Pictures



From Left to Right: Denis O’Hearn (Sociology, Texas A&M), James V. Fenelon (Sociology & Center for Indigenous Studies, UC-San Bernardino), and Immanuel Wallerstein (Sociology, Yale University).



From Left to Right: Andrej Grubacic (Anthropology and Social Change, California Institute of Integral Studies), Joseph Jewell (Sociology, Texas A&M), Mikie Stephens (Sociology, Binghamton University), Hazal Hurman (Sociology, Texas A&M), and Jason Struna (Sociology and Anthropology, University of Puget Sound).



Back row: Sam Cohen (Sociology, Texas A&M), Nancy Plankey-Videla (Sociology, Texas A&M).
 Front row: Mikie Stephens (Sociology, Binghamton University), Denis O'Hearn (Sociology, Texas A&M), Vandana Swami (School of Development, Azim Premji University).

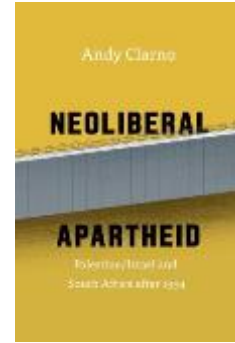


Sam Cohen (Sociology, Texas A&M) and Michael Calderon-Zaks (Sociology, UC-Irvine).



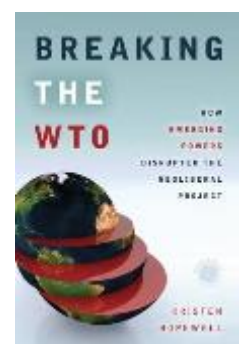
Recently Published Books from PEWS Members:

Clarno, Andy. 2017. *Neoliberal Apartheid: Palestine/Israel and South Africa after 1994*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.



In the early 1990s, both South Africa and Israel began negotiations with their colonized populations. South Africans saw results: the state was democratized and black South Africans gained formal legal equality. Palestinians, on the other hand, won neither freedom nor equality, and today Israel remains a settler-colonial state. Despite these different outcomes, the transitions of the last twenty years have produced surprisingly similar socioeconomic changes in both regions: growing inequality, racialized poverty, and advanced strategies for securing the powerful and policing the racialized poor. *Neoliberal Apartheid* explores this paradox through an analysis of (de)colonization and neoliberal racial capitalism. After a decade of research in the Johannesburg and Jerusalem regions, Andy Clarno presents here a detailed ethnographic study of the precariousness of the poor in Alexandra township, the dynamics of colonization and enclosure in Bethlehem, the growth of fortress suburbs and private security in Johannesburg, and the regime of security coordination between the Israeli military and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank. The book addresses the limitations of liberation in South Africa, highlights the impact of neoliberal restructuring in Palestine, and argues that a new form of neoliberal apartheid has emerged in both contexts.

Hopewell, Kristen. 2016. *Breaking the WTO: How Emerging Powers Disrupted the Neoliberal Project*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. <http://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=27086>

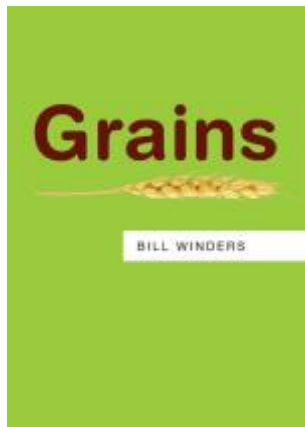


The global economy is being dramatically transformed by the rise of new powers, such as China, India and Brazil, and the corresponding decline in the political and economic dominance of the US and other Western states. This book provides the first analysis of the impact of contemporary power shifts on the American-led project of neoliberal globalization, by examining a core institution of global economic governance,

the World Trade Organization (WTO). Its central argument is that the emergence of new powers has disrupted the neoliberal project at the WTO. Paradoxically, however, this is not because the rising powers rejected the rules and norms of the multilateral trading system, but just the opposite, because they embraced the system and sought to lay claim to its benefits. Rising powers usurped the dominant norms, discourses and institutional tools of the WTO and used them to challenge US hegemony. Yet, when the weapons of the powerful became appropriated by formerly subordinate states, the system itself broke down. A situation of more equitable power relations among states caused the Doha Round of trade negotiations to collapse and, in the process, cut short the neoliberal project at the WTO. This breakdown represents a crisis in one of the core governing institutions of global neoliberalism.

Winders, Bill. 2017. *Grains*. Polity Press (Resources Series).

http://politybooks.com/bookdetail/?isbn=9780745688039&subject_id=2



Grains – particularly maize, rice, and wheat – are the central component of most people’s diets, but we rarely stop to think about the wider role they play in national and international policy-making, as well as global issues like food security, biotechnology, and even climate change. But why are grains so important and ubiquitous? What political conflicts and economic processes underlie this dominance? Who controls the world’s supply of grains and with what outcomes? In this timely book, Bill Winders unravels the complex story of feed and food grains in the global economy. Highlighting the importance of corporate control and divisions between grains – such as who grows them, and who consumes them – he shows how grains do not represent a unitary political and economic force. While the differences between them may seem small, they can lead to competing economic interests and policy preferences with serious and, on occasion, violent geopolitical consequences. This richly detailed and authoritative guide will be of interest to students across the social sciences, as well as anyone interested in current affairs.

Recently Published Articles from PEWS Members:

- Burroway, Rebekah. 2016. "Democracy and Child Health in Developing Countries." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 57(5): 338-364.
- Hopewell, Kristen. 2016. "The Accidental Agro-Power: Constructing Comparative Advantage in Brazil." *New Political Economy* 21(6): 536-554. <http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/rNz89JuSfKMK2NPwhfbT/full>
- Hopewell, Kristen. 2017. "Invisible Barricades: Civil Society and the Discourse of the WTO." *Globalizations* 14(1): 51-65. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2016.1162984>
- Lapegna, Pablo. 2017. "The Political Economy of Agro-Export Boom Under the Kirchners: Hegemony and Passive Revolution in Argentina." *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 17 (2), 313-329.
- Matlon, Jordanna. 2016. "Racial capitalism and the crisis of black masculinity." *American Sociological Review* 81(5):1014-1038.
- Raynolds, Laura T. 2017. "Fairtrade Labour Certification: The Contested Incorporation of Plantations and Workers." *Third World Quarterly* doi: 10.1080/01436597.2016.1272408.
- Winders, Bill, Alison Heslin, Gloria Ross, Hannah Weksler, and Seanna Berry. 2016. "Life After the Regime: Market Instability with the Fall of the US Food Regime." *Agriculture and Human Values*, 33, 73-88.

***Journal of World-Systems Research* Updates: Online use metrics show our journal's reach and impact**

The online publication platform we use for the *Journal of World-Systems Research* provides us with a variety of ways to assess the usage and impact of our journal's content. At the following link (<http://pitt.libguides.com/altmetrics>), you can find information about the alternative metrics (provided by PlumX) that are collected to track the usage and impact of content (this includes social media usage, citations, total downloads and views, and mentions and captures (described in more detail below). Our editorial team is continuing to update our content so that we can better track the impact of articles that were published prior to our move to this system, and in the next PEWS NEWS we will be able to report on those measures.

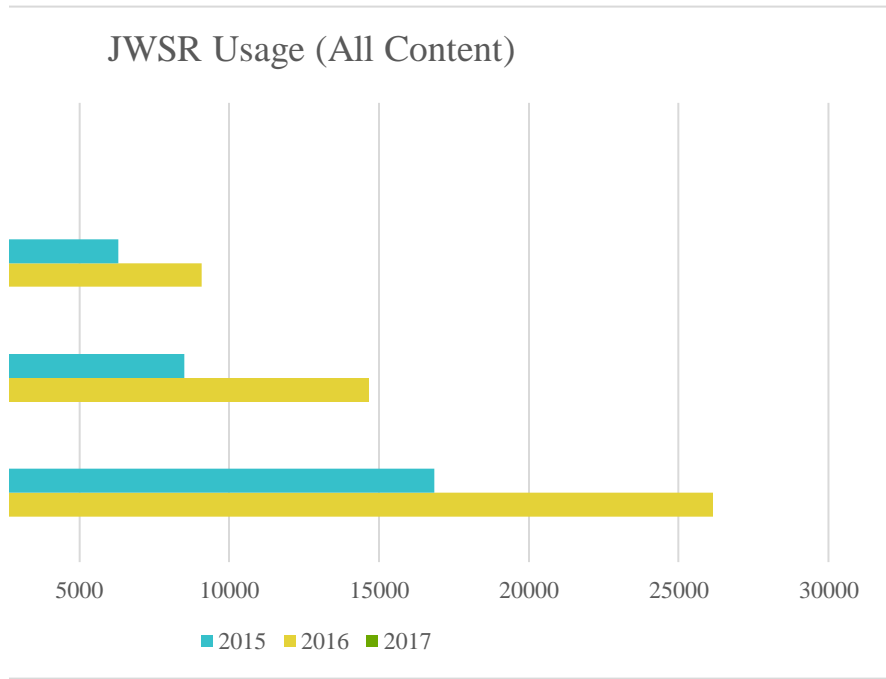
Currently, it is possible for us to track the views and downloads of articles and other content since we began publishing on the University of Pittsburgh's University Library System platform in the summer of 2015. To view these metrics for any item, simply select that item on our webpage (www.jwsr.pitt.edu) and click on the PlumX icon at the bottom of the article summary.

This website (<http://libguides.ioe.ac.uk/c.php?g=482417&p=3298550>) provides suggestions for how authors can help increase attention to their work, and we encourage you to take steps to help promote your article. These measures can also be helpful when preparing CVs, tenure portfolios, or grant applications: see this website for some use cases (<http://pitt.libguides.com/altmetrics/usecases>).

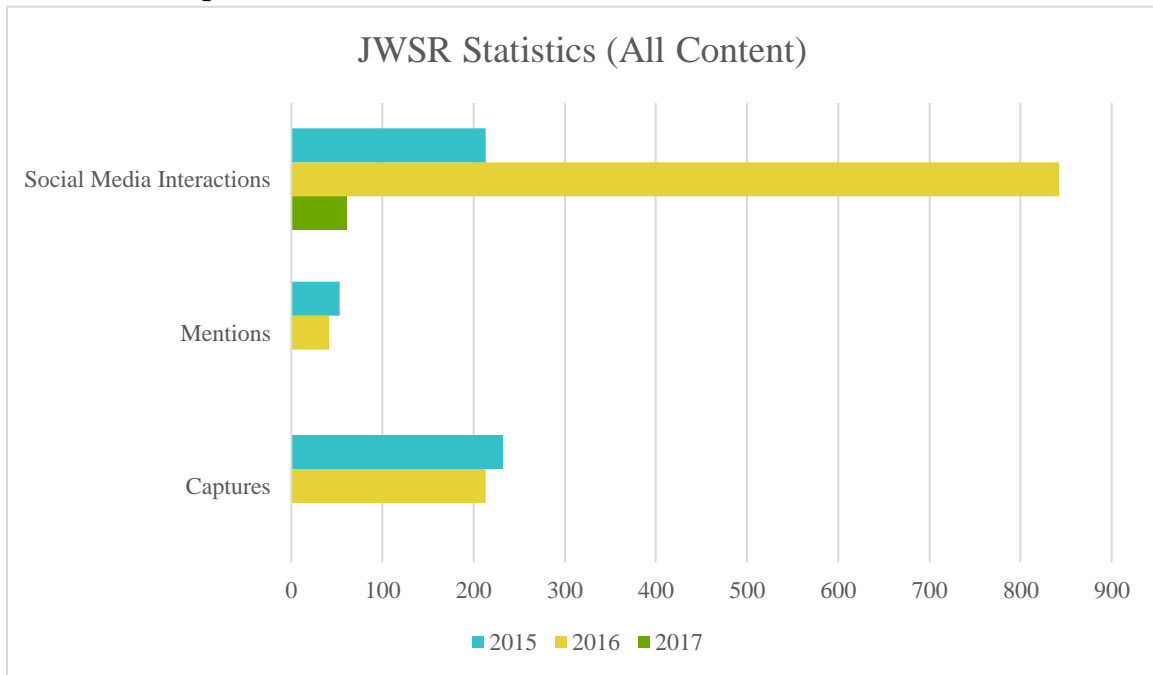
As an example of the type of information you can track on this site, Karatasli and Kumral's paper, "Territorial Contradictions of the Rise of China: Geopolitics, Nationalism and Hegemony in Comparative-Historical Perspective" has already had 173 usage hits (in this case, that means full text views). Ewing's paper, "Hollow Ecology" has also seen over 100 usage hits, as well as over 40 uses on social media. This has occurred within just one month of the issue being available—and the numbers are impressive for all of the other contributions as well. On this point, we would like to highlight that sharing yours and other JWSR articles on social media platforms like Facebook—especially within your academic networks—helps us expand the reach of your article as well as the journal.

One author who actively promoted her 2016 article, "[The Parallels between Mass Incarceration and Mass Deportation: An Intersectional Analysis of State Repression](#)" on social media, Tana Golash-Boza, has generated 426 shares, likes and comments on social media and a total of 1452 usage hits. Of course, the timeliness of this particular topic contributes to the attention it has received, but we believe that authors and PEWS members can help enhance our journal's usage and impact of the research we publish.

To give you a better sense of recent JWSR exposure, below we present two charts that summarize usage. The first, "JWSR Usage" shows total views, broken down by type (HTML, Abstract, or Full Text). As you can see, 2016 (volume 22, issues 1 and 2) have the highest numbers, and show a significant leap from 2015 (volume 21, issues 1 and 2) when we first switched journal platforms. Our first issue of 2017 (volume 23, issue 1) has only been published for a little over a month, but has already attracted nearly 1,000 views.



The second chart, “JWSR Statistics” shows other usage (this is in addition to total views), broken down by social media interactions, mentions (this includes links on Wikipedia), and captures (this includes readers on Mendeley and export-saves on EBSCO). Again, there is a significant increase in social media usage from 2015 to 2016, and as noted in the text above, authors are promoting their work on social media from our most recent issue; we encourage all of you (authors and PEWS members) to continue to publicize our work on this platform.



Please note that we have excluded citation information for this update, as we are in the process of linking the old web platform/article URLs to the new one. As you know, it takes time for articles to be cited, and we do not yet have the ability to track content referenced prior to 2015. We are looking forward to the chance to update you on this in Summer 2017.

JWSR needs PEWS members to reach our full potential!

We need your help to make our journal successful and sustainable. Please help us out by promoting the journal, encouraging submissions, and enrolling in the system as a reviewer. If you haven't created a user account yet, please go to the www.jwsr.org and create a user profile. If you already have a profile, please be sure to enter your reviewing interests in your online profile on our system. This will help us match our requests for reviews with your areas of expertise. As you know, the quality of the journal content depends upon a supply of dedicated reviewers. We appreciate the important service PEWS members provide, and we think your efforts show in the quality of our journal's content. You can also email us your review interests – just send to: jwsr@pitt.edu

Please also let us know if you would like any hard-copy (4"X6") announcement cards to share with colleagues, with students, or at conferences. Just email jwsr@pitt.edu with the number you would like and a mailing address. We find these are good for expanding attention to the journal in diverse networks, including enhancing our visibility outside the United States.

We welcome comments, questions and suggestions from PEWS members, and we thank all of you who have contributed to our journal as authors, reviewers, copyeditors, and outreach folks.

Sincerely,

JWSR Editorial Team

Thank you for all those that contributed to the Spring Issue of PEWS News!

Ben Marley
Binghamton University