

PEWSNews

Newsletter of the ASA Section on Political Economy of the World-System

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Jennifer Bickham Mendez
William & Mary



It is my distinct honor to write as the new Chair of PEWS. I am drafting this letter on the Fall Equinox, a seasonal marker of transition and change. Indeed, we are all now adapting to new and shifting ways of conducting ourselves and fulfilling our professional roles as researchers and educators during the current global pandemic. While we may find ourselves isolated in the “small worlds”

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of our homes and offices, new and pressing research questions are emerging in this time of unprecedented change which those trained in the study political economy and the world system are particularly well-equipped to address. Now, more than ever, a political-economic approach matters for making sense of the complexities at play within a global capitalist system. The analytical tools that we have honed and developed enable us to shed light on often overlooked patterns and dynamics that underlie global crises like the ones unfolding around us. We understand that these crises are far from purely “natural,” and that global, political-economic inequalities will frame their impact on people’s lives. I believe that in these times our professional association, and our section, can play a vital role in providing ways for us to connect with one another, share perspectives, and exchange ideas as scholars and teachers.

Resilience is an overused word these days. However, as the current Chair of PEWS, I am compelled to call attention to the ways in which our section has continued its work even under the challenging conditions of the day. At the first-ever virtual ASA there was robust attendance at the PEWS sessions as well as our business and council meetings, the latter two convened by our ever-capable (and accomplished) past-chair, Tanya Golash-Boza. At the business meeting committee chairs announced the winners of the 2020 PEWS awards. Please do take the time to read about the work and accomplishments of your fellow PEWS members, I am sure you will find that our colleagues continue to produce

influential, cutting-edge work and to engage in innovative teaching that will suitably prepare the next generation of scholars of the political economy.

At our council meeting members enthusiastically endorsed the revitalization of PEWS News, as a valuable source of information-sharing and connection among PEWS members. I am grateful to editors Marilyn Grell-Brisk and Zeinab Shuker for their alacrity and determination in taking up this work on behalf of the membership. Currently, council members are busy constituting committees for the current year. And section members are developing exciting proposals for sessions at ASA 2021.

“Now, more than ever, a political-economic approach matters for making sense of the complexities at play within the global capitalist system.”

Please do consider submitting a paper to our round table session or to one of the PEWS-sponsored sessions. We do not know what ASA will look like, but our engagement will ensure the continued vitality of PEWS. Plans are also underway for rescheduling the PEWS mini conference on the legacies of Immanuel Wallerstein--now to be held in Chicago on August 6 the day before “PEWS day” at the 2021 ASA meetings.

Finally, the recent protests of the Black Lives Matters movement and the international spotlight they have cast on systemic racism

are a reminder of the continuing importance of Diversity and Inclusion work both at the level of PEWS and the profession in general. I am pleased to announce that our Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will continue its work under the leadership of chair Samantha Fox. This year's committee will bestow its bi-annual award for Diversity & Inclusion on a PEWS member. Please do consider nominating yourself or a colleague when the call for nominations is announced.

As I look to the months ahead, I am grateful for the collegiality and intellectual vibrancy of the PEWS officers, council members and membership. I look forward to undertaking our work together as a Section.

In solidarity,

Jennifer Bickham Mendez

PEWS Chair, 2020-21
Professor of Sociology
William & Mary

A Note From Our Past Chair

Dear PEWS members,

It has been an honor to serve as Chair of this illustrious section over the past academic year. The year 2020 has been difficult for many of us – to say the least. The events of this year from the pandemic to the anti-racist uprisings to the rise of fascism to the effects of climate change – make the work you all do investigating the political economy of the world system even more urgent. If you have been able to push through and continue with your research agenda, thank you for doing

this critical work that will shed important light on these unprecedented times. If you have had to set your research agenda aside to attend to more pressing needs, I hope you are able to give yourself the grace you need and deserve.

"If you have been able to push through and continue with your research agenda, thank you for doing this critical work that will shed important light on these unprecedented times. If you have had to set your research agenda aside to attend to more pressing needs, I hope you are able to give yourself the grace you need and deserve."

This year as Chair has been unusual. However, the strong commitment of PEWS members has been unwavering. I would like to thank the past chair, Amy Quark, for making the transition seamless; the secretary-treasurer Bill Winders, for ensuring the section work flowed smoothly; the Chair-Elect Jennifer Bickham-Mendez for keeping things moving; and all of PEWS Council for their dedication. Last but not least, thanks to Marilyn Grell-Brisk and Zeinab Shuker for keeping the long tradition of PEWS NEWS alive.

In solidarity,

Tanya Golash-Boza

PEWS Chair, 2019-2020
Professor of Sociology
University of California, Merced

Member Spotlights and News

Meet Your Council Members

Sahan Savas Karatasli, *University of North Carolina at Greensboro* (23)

Prof. Karatasli examines dynamics of historical capitalism, financialization, social movements, labor movements, nationalism and inequality from a global and long-historical perspective. He uses quantitative and comparative-historical methods to examine serious challenges facing the world, and prospects for social justice in the 21st century.

Kristin Plys, *University of Toronto* (23)

Professor Plys' research sits at the intersection of political economy, postcolonial theory, sociology of development, labor and labor movements, historical sociology, and global area studies. The greater part of her intellectual work analyses the historical trajectory of global capitalism as seen from working class and anti-colonial movements in the Global South.

Irene Pang, *Simon Fraser University* (22)

Prof. Pang is a political sociologist who studies issues of labor, citizenship, and rights contestation in contemporary China and India. Her ongoing research examines how low-income internal migrant construction workers in Beijing and Delhi navigate relations with capital, the state, and civil society in their struggle to achieve substantive citizenship beyond its formal bureaucratic status.

Samantha Fox, *Michigan State University* (22)

Dr. Fox's theoretical orientation is toward a world historical political economy perspective that transcends disciplinary boundaries. She is currently developing her dissertation *On the Margins of a Mine, On the Margins of Capitalism: Indigenous Autonomy and Extractive Development in Guatemala* into a book. This research examines practices of resilience and strategies of opposition to mining among indigenous and peasant communities.

Kelly Austin, *Lehigh University* (21)

Prof. Austin's research centers on exploring inequalities in health and the environment in developing nations. In particular, her research examines how political-economic forces, such as trade inequalities or increased privatization, impact disease transmission and environmental degradation in poor countries. In addition, to quantitative, cross-national research, she also conducts fieldwork on coffee production and vulnerabilities to malaria and HIV in the rural district of Bududa, Uganda.

Jordanna Matlon, *American University* (21)

Dr. Matlon is an urban sociologist interested in questions of race and belonging in Africa and the African diaspora, and the ways "blackness" as a signifier – and in its intersection with gender, class, and national identity – illuminates our understanding of popular culture, postcoloniality and neoliberalism in the contemporary city. Her

current research examines the livelihoods and lifestyles of men on the urban periphery.

Student: Samantha Agarwal, Johns Hopkins University (22)

Agarwal is a graduate student in Sociology and received the 2020 International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF) funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

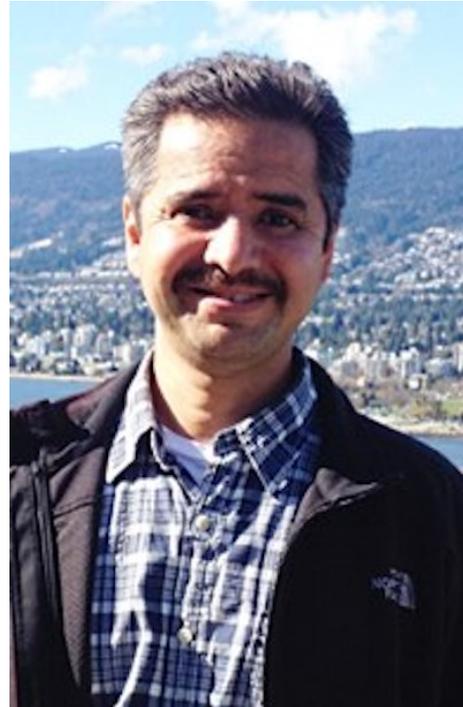
Student: Daniel Cunha, Binghamton University (21)

Cunha is a graduate student in Sociology and published the article, *Coppering the Industrial Revolution: History, Materiality and Culture in the Making of An Ecological Regime* in the JWSR's Winter/Spring Special Issue

JWSR Editor: Andrej Grubačić, California Institute of Integral Studies

Dr. Grubačić's interest in world history and anarchist anthropology has influenced his research perspective which is focused on comparative research of no state democracies and societies without a state on the world-scale. Following Peter Kropotkin and Marcel Mauss, he studies world history as a struggle between institutions of possessive individualism and institutions of mutual aid. His ongoing research on "exilic spaces" in the modern capitalist world system considers how spatial expressions of concentrated mutual aid are produced and reproduced on the outside/inside of capitalist civilization.

Celebrating Prof. Manuel Barajas
Winner of PEWS Section Award for Advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



Prof. of Sociology, Dr. Manuel Barajas

This biennial award is given in odd years to a member of PEWS who is an outstanding advocate for issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. This award recognizes an individual who demonstrates a sustained commitment to dismantling institutional barriers within universities and other institutions of scholarly exchange (e.g. conferences, etc.) that limit the educational and professional attainment of underrepresented students and faculty, including those in the Global South.

In 2019, the award recipient was Professor Manuel Barajas. Professor Barajas is a major role model for the historically underrepresented students at California State University,

Sacramento and beyond. His ability to connect with students both in and outside of the classroom is a trait not often seen in the academy. Professor Barajas is engaged with the current social issues facing society as a critical sociologist and tries to put this knowledge into practice through praxis. Dr. Barajas has spent his entire career bringing up others in academia, while at the same time advancing the political economy of globalization with his Interactive Colonialism theory (Barajas 2009). He is from an immigrant working-class farm worker community in northern California. He has used his early life experiences to expand opportunities to students of color at his home institution of California State University Sacramento.

Professor Barajas is one of the few Latino faculty members in the social sciences at Cal State Sacramento. Dr. Barajas makes several contributions to the curriculum by offering multiple courses on race, immigration, and Chicano studies. Before his arrival at Cal State Sacramento, few of these courses were offered in a state that now has a Latino plurality. Several of the undergraduates Manuel mentored from these courses were directly channeled into the McNair Scholars program by him (over a dozen students). McNair is a program for high achieving first generation college students and underrepresented minorities.

Almost all of Dr. Barajas's 15 McNair undergraduate students have gone on to graduate school, making him a multiplier in producing diversity in graduate programs in the United States. These social science

graduate programs include UCLA, UC Merced, Columbia, University of Southern California,

"Before his arrival at Cal State Sacramento, few of these courses [on race, immigration and Chicano studies] were offered in a state that now has a Latino plurality."

and several Cal State campuses. Between 2010 and 2020, **Dr. Barajas has supervised 35 Masters theses** on topics ranging from fair housing practices to women in the Bracero program.

Professor Barajas has a unique capacity to connect with students of color inside and outside of the classroom. His deep empathy for the obstacles and struggles of others gives him the ability to bring out the potential of his students – many of which come from immigrant and working-class backgrounds similar to his own. He is currently the director of graduate studies at Cal State Sacramento and is equally influential with the graduate students in his program.

One practice used by Dr. Barajas and his spouse Elvia Ramirez (a professor in Ethnic Studies) is to host a monthly get-together with graduate and undergraduate students in their home. At these events, graduate students discuss progress on their research and given feedback from other students. The undergraduate students receive advice on graduate school and career options. The vast majority of these students are underrepresented minorities. Such events create comfortable

spaces for students to interact and advance on their research while simultaneously receiving nurturing support. Dr. Barajas regularly encourages underrepresented students to present at Sociology and Chicano Studies conferences, and serve on panels with him. He also worked with his McNair students until they publish their undergraduate thesis in the McNair Journal. I know of very few faculty members that would give up this kind of time to support the careers of students. Dr. Barajas also has committed substantial time to service in promoting diversity on his home campus, the Pacific Sociological Association, and the American Sociological Association, and in the communities of Stockton and Sacramento in California.

“Over a dozen undergraduates mentored by Prof. Barajas were channeled into the McNair Scholars program for high achieving first generation college students and underrepresented minorities... They have all gone on to graduate school, making him a multiplier in producing diversity in graduate programs.”

He has been recognized for this work at the community level by the Multi-Cultural Center, Oaxacan indigenous communities, and many others. On his campus he has served as an advisor to MEChA, Mujeres Ayudando la Raza (MAR), and the migrant student service center (CAMP). He has also served as the Director of the Serna Center at Cal State Sacramento whose mission statement reads, “The mission of the Serna Center is to promote, foster, and enhance

self-advocacy, empowerment and leadership among Chicanxs/Latinxs students and students from other under-represented backgrounds at Sacramento State.”

New Publications from our Membership

New Articles

Almeida, Paul and Amalia Pérez Martín. 2020. "Economic Globalization and Social Movements in Latin America." in *Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Latin America* edited by X. Bada and L. Rivera. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

<https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190926557.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780190926557-e-25>

Amelina, A., Boatcă, M., Bongaerts, G., & Weiß, A. 2020. Theorizing societalization across borders: Globality, transnationality, postcoloniality. *Current Sociology*, 0011392120952119.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0011392120952119>

Bashi Treitler, Vilna and Aldon Morris. 2019. "The Racial State of the Union: Racial Inequality and Struggle in the USA." in *Caderno CRH (Journal of the Center for Human Resources)*, Special Issue on "Social inequalities: new agenda for contemporary social theory", 85: January 2019.

Boatcă, M., & Parvulescu, A. 2020. Creolizing Transylvania: Notes on Coloniality and Inter-Imperiality. *History of the Present* 10(1): 9-27.

<https://read.dukeupress.edu/history-of-the-present/article/10/1/9/163922/Creolizing-TransylvaniaNotes-on-Coloniality-and>

Boatcă, M. 2020. Citizenship. in *The Routledge Handbook to the Political Economy and Governance of the Americas*, edited by O. Kaltmeier et al. London: Routledge

Chase-Dunn, Christopher and Marilyn Grell-Brisk. 2020 Forthcoming. Immanuel Wallerstein. In *Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*. 2nd Edition. e.d. George Ritzer.

Chase-Dunn, Christopher and Marilyn Grell-Brisk. 2019. Oxford Bibliography in International Relations: World-System Theory. In *Oxford Bibliography in International Relations*. e.d. Patrick James. New York: Oxford University Press.

Ciccantell, Paul S. 2020. "Liquefied Natural Gas: Redefining Nature, Restructuring Geopolitics, Returning to the Periphery?". *American Journal of Economics and Sociology* 79(1):265-300. doi: 10.1111/ajes.12313.

Cunha, Daniel. 2020. "Coppering the Industrial Revolution: History, Materiality, and Culture in the Making of an Ecological Regime." *Journal of World-Systems Research* 26(1):40-69.

<https://jwsr.pitt.edu/ojs/jwsr/article/view/917>

Cunha, Daniel. 2019. "The Frontier of Hell: Sicily, Sulfur, and the Rise of the British Chemical Industry, 1750-1840." *Critical Historical Studies* 6(2):279-302.

<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/705370>

Deb, Nikhil. 2020. "Law and Corporate Malfeasance in Neoliberal India." *Critical Sociology*. doi: 10.1177/0896920520907122.

Deb, Nikhil. 2020. "Corporate Capitalism, Environmental Damage, and the Rule of Law: The Magurchara Gas Explosion in Bangladesh." in *The Routledge International Handbook of Green Criminology*, edited by N. South and A. Brisman. London: Routledge.

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315207094>

Deb, Nikhil and Maya Rao. 2020. "The Pandemic and the Invisible Poor of the Global South: Slum Dwellers in Mumbai, India, and Dhaka, Bangladesh." in *Social Problems in the Age of COVID-19: Volume 2 – Global Perspectives*, edited by G. Muschert, K. Budd, M. Christian, D. Lane, R. Perrucci, and J. Smith. Bristol, UK: Policy Press.

Deb, Nikhil. 2020. REVIEW: "Elia Apostolopoulou and Jose A. Cortes-Vazquez (Eds): The Right to Nature: Social Movements, Environmental Justice and Neoliberal Natures." *Critical Criminology* 1-4. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10612-019-09484-2>

Gellert, Paul K. and Paul S. Ciccantell. 2020. "Coal's Persistence in the Capitalist World-Economy: Against Teleology in Energy "Transition" Narratives." *Sociology of Development* 6(2):194-221. doi: 10.1525/sod.2020.6.2.194.

Grell-Brisk, Marilyn. 2019. Stratification in the World-Economy: The Semiperiphery and Periphery. In *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism. 2nd Edition*. e.d. Immanuel Ness and Zak Cope. London: Palgrave Macmillan

Mueller, Jason C. 2020. "Political, Economic, and Ideological Warfare in Somalia." *Peace Review* 31(3): 372-280.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/10402659.2019.1735174>

Mueller, Jason C. 2019. "What Can Sociologists of Globalization and Development Learn from Nicos Poulantzas?" *Progress in Development Studies* 19(4):284-303.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1464993419860953>

Mueller, Jason C., John McCollum, and Steven Schmidt. 2020. "COVID-19, the Vanishing Mediator, and Postcapitalist Possibilities." *Rethinking Marxism, Pandemic and the Crisis of Capitalism: A Rethinking Marxism Dossier*: Pp. 181-192.

http://www.rethinkingmarxism.org/Dossier2020/19_MuellerCollumSchmidt.pdf

Mueller, Jason C. and Steven Schmidt. 2020. "Revisiting Culture and Meaning-Making in World-Systems Analysis: A Proposal for Engaging with the Cultural Political Economy Approach." *Critical Sociology* 46(4-5): 711-728.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0896920519856074>

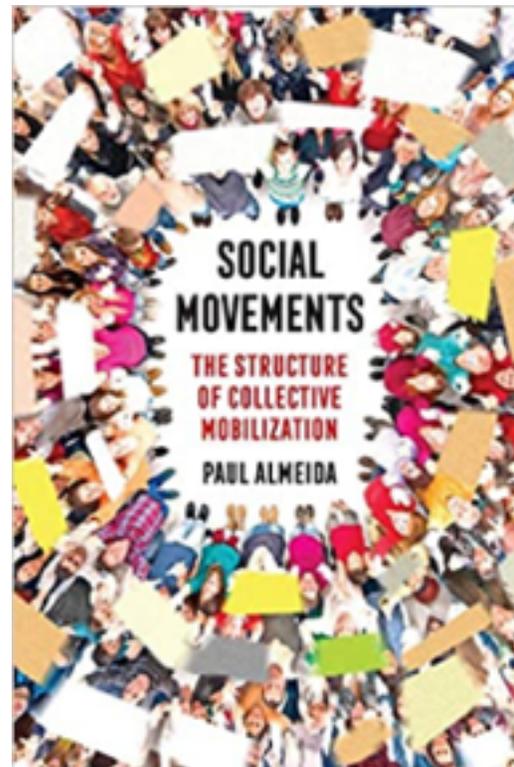
Schmidt, Steven, and Jason C. Mueller. 2020. "The Emergence of Participatory Budgeting in Mexico City." Pp. 286-298 in *The Routledge Handbook of Planning Megacities in the Global South*, edited by Deden Rukmana. London: Routledge. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/e/9781003038160/chapters/10.4324/9781003038160-21>

Zhang, Yueran. 2020. "Political Competition and Two Modes of Taxing Private Homeownership: A Bourdieusian Analysis of the Contemporary Chinese State." *Theory and Society* 49(4): 669-707.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11186-020-09395-0>

New Books

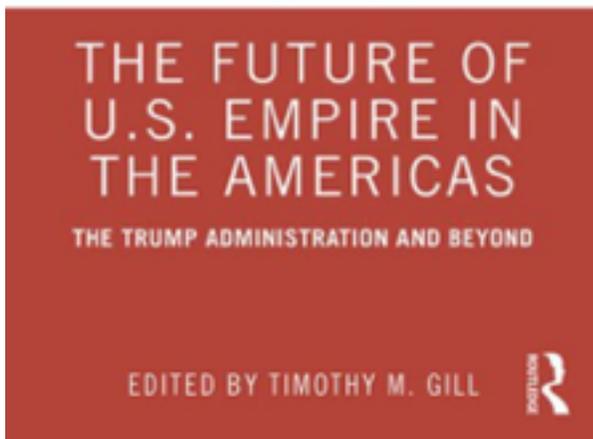
Almeida, Paul. 2020. *Movimientos Sociales: La estructura de la acción colectiva*. Buenos Aires: CLACSO. <http://bit.ly/movimientossocialesdigital>



Social Movements cleverly translates the art of collective action and mobilization by excluded groups to facilitate understanding social change from below. Readers learn the core components of social movements, the theory and methods used to study them, and the conditions under which they can lead to political and social transformation. This book is the first to be organized along the lines of the major subfields of social movement scholarship--framing, movement emergence, recruitment, and outcomes--to provide comprehensive coverage in a single core volume.

Chase-Dunn, Christopher and Paul Almeida. 2020. *Global Struggles and Social Change*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

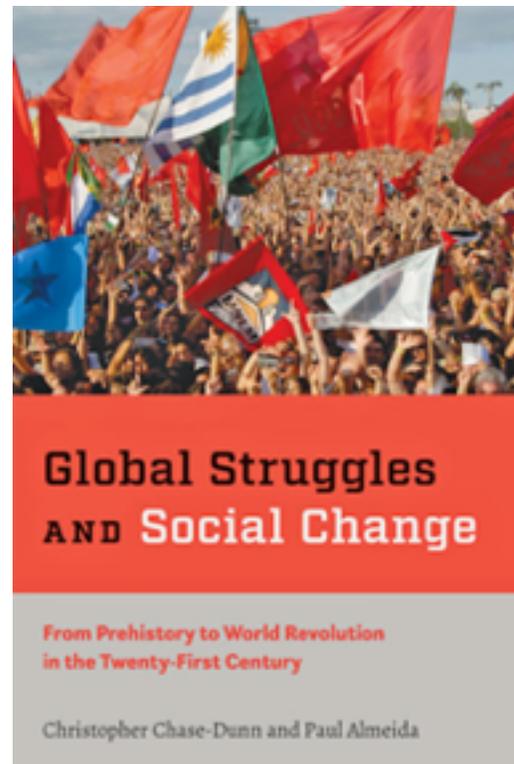
<https://jhupbooks.press.jhu.edu/title/global-struggles-and-social-change>



In *Global Struggles and Social Change*, Christopher Chase-Dunn and Paul Almeida explore how global change stimulates the formation and shape of such movements. Contending that large-scale economic shifts condition the pattern of social movement mobilizations around the world, the authors trace these trends back to premodern societies, revealing how severe disruptions of indigenous communities led to

innovative collective actions throughout history. Drawing on historical case studies, world system and protest event analysis, and social networks, they also examine the influence of global change processes on local, national, and transnational social movements and explain how in turn these movements shape institutional shifts.

McGill, Timothy (Ed). 2020. *The Future of U.S. Empire in the Americas: The Trump Administration and Beyond*. Routledge



With the rise of President Trump, many are coming to question where the United States (U.S.) is headed and, whether we might witness an imperial decline under Trump. Social scientists largely recognize the contemporary hegemonic position of the U.S. at the global level, but questions persist concerning the future of the U.S.

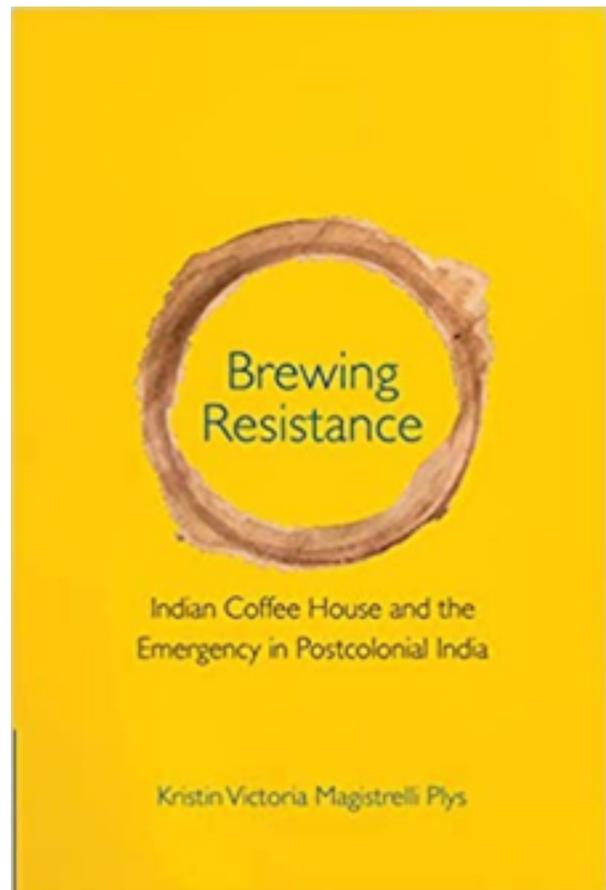
Empire. With the Trump Administration at the helm, these questions are all the more salient.

Drawing on the expertise of a panel of contributors and guided by Michael Mann's model of power, this book critically interrogates the future of U.S. global power and provides insights on what we might expect from the U.S. Empire under Trump. Recognizing that U.S. imperial power involves an array of sources of power (ideological, economic, military, and political), the contributors analyze the Trump Administration's approach towards nine countries in the Western Hemisphere, and five sets of global policies, including inter-American relations, drugs, trade, the environment, and immigration. Each case presents a historical look at the trajectory of relations as they have developed under Trump and what we might expect in the future from the administration.

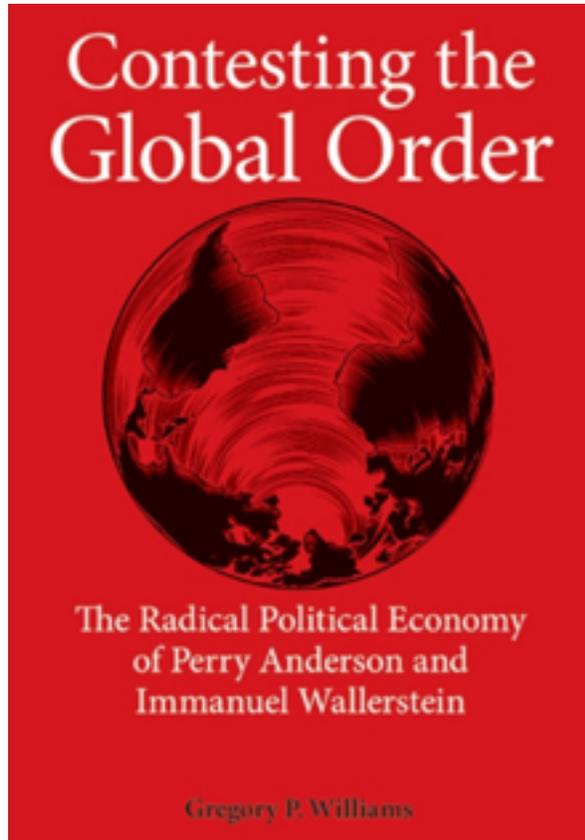
Plys, Kristin. 2020. *Brewing Resistance: Indian Coffee House and the Emergency in Postcolonial India* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

In 1947, decolonization promised a better life for India's peasants, workers, students, Dalits, and religious minorities. By the 1970s, however, this promise had not yet been realized. Various groups fought for the social justice but in response, Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi suspended the constitution, and with it, civil liberties. The hope of decolonization that had turned to disillusion in the postcolonial period quickly descended into a nightmare. In this

book, Kristin Plys recounts the little known story of the movement against the Emergency as seen through New Delhi's Indian Coffee House based on newly uncovered evidence and oral histories with the men who led the movement against the Emergency.



Williams, Gregory P. 2020. *Contesting the Global Order: The Radical Political Economy of Perry Anderson and Immanuel Wallerstein*. Albany: SUNY.



Contesting the Global Order explores what it means to be a radical intellectual as political hopes fade. Gregory P. Williams chronicles the evolution of intellectual visionaries Perry Anderson and Immanuel Wallerstein, who despite altered circumstances for radical change, continued to advance creative interpretations of the social world. Wallerstein and Anderson, whose hopes were invested in a more egalitarian future, believed their writings would contribute to socialism, which they anticipated would be a postcapitalist future of relative social, economic, and political

equality. However, by the 1980s dreams had faded and they had to face the reality that socialism was neither close nor inevitable. Their sensitivity to current events, Williams argues, takes on new significance in this century. Their ideas, created in response to major events of the last century, illuminate some of the most challenging issues of this century, such as: the deterioration of the state; the wild swings of capitalism; revolts against political liberalism; and, the decline of American hegemonic power.

Announcements

Member Accomplishments

Professor Vilna Bashi Treitler, is the 2020 recipient of the Cox-Johnson-Frasier award bestowed by the American Sociological Association for scholarship in service to social Justice. Prof. Treitler's book, *The Ethnic Project: Transforming Racial Fiction into Ethnic Factions*, published by Stanford University Press in 2013, was honored by inclusion in the Zora Canon, a list of the best 100 books written by an African American woman.

Requests for Participation

The editors of the book review section of the Journal of World Systems Research are currently soliciting reviews of books on policing, mass incarceration, and Black Lives Matter for the Winter/Spring 2021 issue. They also invite researchers to propose review essays on multiple books and author dialogues. Review essays are longer pieces (3-5,000 words) that engage multiple books on a shared theme. An author dialogue consists of two or more authors writing a series of short responses to each other's work, such as the dialogue between William Robinson and Michael Hanchard in [Summer/Fall 2019](#). In addition to new formats, the review editors will also be providing a running list of books they are interested in seeing reviewed and will be inviting inquiries from potential reviewers. Watch the JWSR website for details, and contact our editors if you'd like to propose ideas for this section. (Alexandre White: awhite94@jhmi.edu, Isaac Kamola: ikamola@trincoll.edu).

Below is a list of books the Journal of World System Research (JWRS) would like to see reviewed. You can request to review these books--or other books not on the list that you feel would be of interest to our readers--by contacting the JWSR Book Review Editors: Alexandre White (awhite94@jhmi.edu) and Isaac Kamola (ikamola@trincoll.edu).

Review Symposium: Policing, Mass Incarceration, and Black Lives Matter (Winter/Spring 2021). Issues 26(2) will include a special issue on policing, mass incarceration, and Black Lives Matter. We are especially interested in reviews of books that engage these topics, including:

- **Camp, Jordan T., and Christina Heatherton**, eds. 2016. Policing the planet: Why the policing crisis led to Black Lives Matter. Verso Books.
- **Lebron, Christopher J.** 2017. The making of black lives matter: A brief history of an idea. Oxford University Press.
- **Luttrell, Johanna C.** 2019. White People and Black Lives Matter: Ignorance, Empathy, and Justice. Springer.
- **Rothstein, Richard.** 2017. The color of law: A forgotten history of how our government segregated America. Liveright Publishing.
- **Taylor, Keeanga Yamahtta**, 2016. From #BlackLivesMatter to black liberation. Haymarket Books.

- **Vitale, Alex S.** 2017. The end of policing. Verso Books.
- **Schrader, Stuart.** 2019. Badges without Borders: How Global Counterinsurgency Transformed American Policing. American Crossroads 56. Oakland, California: University of California Press.

The editors of PEWSNews would like to hold an informal conversation on the question of **reparations and the discourse around it**. We are hoping to continue the dialogue which began in JWSR's special issue (Vol 26, NO 2, 2020). If you would like to participate, please contact us at pewsnews@gmail.com.

Job Openings

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Lehigh University will be seeking an **adjunct instructor with training in Sociology** for one or more of the following courses in the Spring 2021 semester:

- Infections and Inequalities: HIV, TB, and Malaria in the Global South
- Global Health Issues
- Race and Ethnicity in the Contemporary U.S.

The payscale for these courses ranges from ~\$5,000 - \$7,000 each depending on the experience and level of education of the instructor. These courses will be taught virtually, so anyone who is located in the

United States is eligible to apply. Lehigh is a research-focused, mid-sized school which greatly values undergraduate and liberal arts education. Students at Lehigh tend to be highly skilled and very driven. It is a wonderful place to teach undergraduates and would be a great experience for those who are ABD or in more advanced stages of their careers.

Please advertise this opportunity widely in your networks.

If you are interested or have any questions, please email Kelly Austin at: kellyaustin@lehigh.edu.

Pews Sessions at ASA 2021

Please consider submitting paper proposals to our Section Sessions. Thanks to the organizers for proposing such dynamic sessions! The submission site for the 2021 Annual Meeting will open on Monday, November 9, 2020. **The deadline to submit is February 3, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern.**

The October, 2020 ASA Meeting Bulletin noted, “ASA is carefully monitoring recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and others regarding the COVID-19 situation as we begin planning the August Annual Meeting in Chicago. At present, we are proceeding as planned, but we will adjust as necessary to ensure the health and well-being of our community. Should we need to cancel or amend the meeting plan, we will provide adequate notice to potential participants.”

Refereed Round-tables

Organizer: Lu Zhang, Temple University

Refereed roundtables will feature cutting-edge theoretical and empirical research that engages global, political economic approaches organized by topical theme. Depending on the abstract/paper submissions we receive online, the roundtables will cover important themes such as Climate Change, Racial Justice, Gender Inequality, Global Social Movements, Labor, Migration, Sustainable Development, Nationalism, Democratization,

Human Rights, Culture and Mass Media, and the Impact of COVID-19, etc.

COVID-19 and the Capitalist World-System

Co-organizers: Christopher Chase-Dunn, UC, Riverside; William I Robison, UC, Santa Barbara

The COVID-19 pandemic thrust the capitalist world-system into the worst economic and political crisis in decades. It brought about heightened class and racial inequality, aggravated geopolitical tensions, and fanned social conflict around the world. The pandemic brought into stark relief the extent of malaise in the global social order. It may prove to be a before-and-after turning point. What will the capitalist world-system look like as it emerges from the pandemic? How will the crisis play out? What are the prospects for social justice in the post-pandemic world? This panel will explore these issues and welcomes paper submissions from a broad range of perspectives.

Political Economy Approaches to Technology and the Environment

Co-organizers: Kelly Austin, Lehigh University; Sarah Grace Manski, George Mason University

While capitalism is often associated with fostering technological innovation, capitalist development also shapes emergent technologies to facilitate the accumulation of profit, often leading to ever-increasing environmental destruction. This panel invites papers that engage political economy or

world systems approaches to technology or the environment, or the nexus between the two. Both of these concepts, technology and the environment, can be broadly conceptualized in the research. For instance, issues related to technology could include developments related to big data, the Internet of Things, algorithmic automation, artificial intelligence, distributed ledger technologies, technological innovation, material agency, etc. The topics related to the environment might consider biodiversity, resource use and degradation, climate change, environmental justice, food systems, waste management, renewable energy, the built environment, etc. Papers should engage critical themes related to globalization, and be of interest to a general audience. The goal of this session is to bring together leading technology and environmental scholars who conduct empirical work informed by sociological theory on the possibilities of building new communication, governance, and production institutions outside of capitalism. Papers should address how these changes relate to inequality, democracy and politics.

JWSR Update

Journal of World-Systems Research: Editorial Transition follows Summer/Fall Issue on the Anthropocene and Reparations for Slavery
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One of the things I missed most about the cancellation of this year's ASA meeting was the chance to meet with PEWS section members to share updates and get your ideas about projects for our collective project, the *Journal of World-Systems Research*. As I pass the baton to our new editorial team, I want to offer my thanks to all of you who have helped support and build *JWSR* over my 9-year tenure as editor-in-chief.

"The success of our journal requires that all of us help promote it to new readers, encourage submissions, and serve as reviewers and editorial board members."

We've come a long way from the vision of our founding editor, Chris Chase-Dunn, who foresaw the possibilities new technology provided for enabling greater popular control in an age of the "information economy." We're fortunate to enjoy more support from the infrastructure advanced by the Open Access and free software movements (see more details below).

“World-systems offers not only a critical perspective on the capitalist world-economy, but it also challenges us to engage in work to uncover and create political projects that advance possibilities for alternatives”

I look forward to continuing to support **our** journal’s work and invite other PEWS members to become more active in this *intellectual and political project our section has supported for more than a quarter century*. The success of our journal requires that all of us help promote it to new readers, encourage submissions, and serve as reviewers and editorial board members. Editors also appreciate feedback from PEWS members and ideas for future content or special issues.

World-systems offers not only a critical perspective on the capitalist world-economy, but it also challenges us to engage in work to uncover and create political projects that advance possibilities for alternatives. Today as we most clearly face multiple dimensions of world-systemic crisis, it is imperative that all of us join in the multifaceted work of finding ways out of our collective predicament. *JWSR* has been a vehicle for advancing scholarship and creative thinking in this regard, and I am pleased that my final issue as editor reflected some outstanding examples of this.

Please visit our website: jwsr.pitt.edu/ and help spread the word about our special issue

on World-Systems Analysis in the Anthropocene, guest edited by Leslie Sklair and Michael Murphy. This special issue should inspire more innovative scholarship to help us not only understand the systemic sources of the environmental conundrum we’re in but also to envision and develop alternative operating systems for human societies that align with the Earth system’s principles, logics, and constraints.

Complementing this is a symposium of short essays on “*Using world history to inform work for reparations*.” The symposium grew out of with conversations among our editorial team, which noted the U.S.-centrism of the 2019 commemorations of the 400th anniversary of the first auction of enslaved Africans in North America. We saw a need to help draw attention to the world-historical nature of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and its lasting effects across time and place. We had no idea when we began the project how timely this discussion would become in recent months. I hope this collection of short essays will prompt further critical conversations and inspire action as well as future research on this topic and encourage PEWS members to contribute ideas in this regard.

PEWS Section publications committee headed by *JWSR*’s founding editor, Christopher Chase-Dunn, has recruited a stellar new editorial team to lead the journal. Andrej Grubačić, chair of the Anthropology and Social Change department at California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS), will be our new editor-in-chief, supported by managing editor, PhD candidate Rallie Murray (CIIS).

Isaac Kamola (Trinity College) and Alexandre White (Johns Hopkins) are our new book review editors, and they began their term earlier this year during our transition, taking over this post from Jennifer Bair (University of Virginia). Julien Francois Gerber of International Institute of Social Sciences (The Hague) and Michelle Glowa (CIIS) will serve as Communications and Outreach co-editors. Finally, although recently retired, Patrick Manning will continue editor of our World-Historical Information section long enough to recruit his successor. Ruth Mostern, who succeeds Pat as director of the University of Pittsburgh's World History Center, is working to convene an interdisciplinary meeting of historians and others interested in data analysis and spatial modeling of the human past at the global scale. The meeting accompanies the launch of the [World Historical Gazetteer](#).

The Communication and Outreach editor is a new position we designed to help expand our journal's global readership and engage PEWS members and other readers in the work of supporting and producing our open access journal. So watch for communications from Michelle and Julien! As many readers know, *JWSR* is one of the most established open access scholarly journals (founded in 1995), and we're fighting the growing corporate concentration in academic publishing to keep scholarly research free and accessible to readers around the world. This requires concerted efforts to develop sustainable models for producing this important resource and extending its global reach. Mobilizing and supporting the unpaid labor Section

members do as authors, reviewers, and editors to nurture and support the global knowledge commons takes intentionality, and our new communications and outreach editors will help us do this. Significantly, they will have strong support from a growing world movement for open access publishing, which has made great strides over recent years to resist the corporate appropriation and enclosure of scholarly research.

The response to the pandemic highlights the ongoing need for sustainable open access publishing like *JWSR*. Early in the pandemic many publishers offered "temporary open access" to resources. While widely applauded, most of these temporary offers ended in May, leaving researchers, instructors, and students once again struggling to gain access. [For-profit publishers also sued the Internet Archive's National Emergency Library](#) for expanding access to content during the pandemic, causing the emergency program to end in mid-June. Commercial publishers have also been inflating the cost of ebooks and other electronic resources and applying convoluted use restrictions (see, e.g., this [blog post](#) from the International Federation of Library Associations, or this [tracking project of access to research](#) specifically on COVID-19), making it even more difficult and expensive to gain access to materials. Thus, we're reminded of the urgent need for ongoing, sustainable, and truly open access publishing for the purpose of knowledge production and sharing. We cannot let our access to scholarship and readers depend on the whims and market interests of for-profit publishers. This pandemic should encourage

everyone to expand their commitments to open scholarship by making as much of their research and instruction materials openly available as they can and by supporting and promoting open access, open data, and open education efforts of their colleagues and institutions.[1]

Our new editorial team comes with a wealth of ambition and ideas for leading the *JWSR* and supporting Open Access publishing in years to come. They will continue the work begun under prior editorial teams to better institutionalize and routinize *JWSR*'s policies and practices as part of our becoming an official American Sociological Association journal in 2009. They will continue our effort to renew and rebuild our Editorial Board with an eye to enhancing global representation and diversity. Key among the projects they plan to implement are efforts to build the journal's global audience of readers and scholarly contributors. With a member of the editorial team based in Europe, and expanded capacity for outreach, they are well positioned to help us reach more readers around the world. The team plans to begin publishing abstracts of articles in multiple languages in future issues, and this will help more non-native English speakers identify and access relevant *JWSR* content. In addition to working to transcend linguistic boundaries that have limited the reach of our journal, we are working to overcome the disciplinary limitations that characterize our profession and undermine the unidisciplinary character of world-systems analysis. Under the leadership of Christopher Chase-Dunn, a team of scholars is working to establish an inter-university

consortium to support and promote world-systems research and publishing. Among other benefits, the consortium will provide access to global and multidisciplinary scholar networks as well as institutional support for the journal, helping us reach a more diverse array of readers and contributors.

As I complete my last tasks as *JWSR* editor, I want to thank those who served with me, especially Jenn Bair, who stayed on for an extended 8-year term as book review editor and brought some truly innovative ideas and content to the section. Scott Byrd was our technical editor who put himself out of work by helping us move the journal from its own independent site to our current online publishing platform. This helped move us into the modern era of open access publishing, and it entailed no small amount of work! Finally, I want to thank the managing editors who served over the years.

PEWS Members: We are *JWSR*

I look forward to continuing to support the *JWSR* and open access publishing from the ranks of the PEWS section membership, and I encourage readers to continue promoting the journal and sending in submissions of research articles and special issue ideas. As the world faces a worsening pandemic amid interlinked systemic crises of inequality and ecological damage, it is now more important than ever that we all find ways to support and nurture critical and creative thinking about alternative world-systems that will enable all living beings and future generations to live in dignity, equity and justice. In that regard, I'm inspired to learn from *JWSR* author Joyce

Hope Scott of the work of the International Network of Scholar Activists for African Reparations (INOSAAR), which works to promote “academic and community engagement that is rooted in the praxis of decolonization, pluriversality, and cognitive justice.” This mission, I believe, complements the aims of the *Journal of World-Systems Research*, and I look forward to seeing how the journal develops in dialogue with anti-systemic movements and projects like INOSAAR.

Notes:

[1]. Thanks to Lauren B. Collister, Director of the Office of Scholarly Communication and Publishing at University of Pittsburgh’s University Library System, for help with this background on open access and scholarly publishing and recent developments. Additional resources related to open access and professional issues are available at [http://wiki.inosa.mayfirst.org/index.php?title=Defending the Knowledge Commons](http://wiki.inosa.mayfirst.org/index.php?title=Defending_the_Knowledge_Commons).

Thank you to PEWS Section Members for contributing to PEWSNews!
Remember to follow us on twitter (@ASAPEWS) and email announcements to us
directly at pewsnewsletter@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!
Marilyn, and Zeinab.