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Political-Economy of the World-System

American Sociological Association

Reading Arrighi in Tehran: The Reception of World-Systems Analysis in the Islamic Republic of Iran

On a balmy September day in 2009, I trudged down a series of narrow streets in Northern Tehran with customary landmark-based directions in hand, looking for the offices of the premier intellectual journal in Iran, *Goftogu* (Dialogue). As with much of the semi-periphery, Iranian left intellectuals are of two sorts – the conformists survive a timorous existence in the official institutions and bureaucracies; the rebels skirt the margins precariously but sleep soundly at nights. For the latter, who tend to congregate in the place I was heading towards, one or two benefactors, famous uncles, or father-in-laws in the Shi'a ulema establishment do not hurt, either. *Goftogu*, by reason of its esoteric content, its limited circulation, and its equal critique of liberals and conservatives alike within Iran's power elite, is one of only two independent publications to have never been shut down by the government's Ministry of Islamic Guidance.

The *Goftogu* offices are auspiciously found at the intermediate address number of neither 11 nor 12, but 11½. The doors opened up to reveal boxes of old stocks of books and journals, an austere desk and ancient computer, a table which seemingly provoked debates by its very contours, and, next to the bookshelves, a large framed poster of Fernand Braudel. How did the esteemed purveyor of the *longue durée* reach contemporary Tehran? After all, in Arrighi, Hopkins and Wallerstein's 1989 collection *Antisystemic Movements*, the authors jointly scratch their heads on Iran's trajectory after the 1979 revolution. In the build-up to that fateful year, as students, leftists, oil workers, and the urban semi-proletariat marched in streets paved by the Pahlavis themselves, few social scientists believed anything other than this revolution was a major "continuation of 1968."

And certainly, as Arrighi and Wallerstein often mentioned, the 1979 revolution along with its aftermath was a premier sign of the decline of US hegemony. Ayatollah Khomeini meant it when he said, in response to the takeover of the US embassy, that the US "could not do a damn thing." Unlike the usual history of North-South relations, events inside Iran suddenly affected events inside the United States far more than vice-versa. This, more than anything, explains the playground-like mentality that has undergirded US-Iran relations for the past three decades. Domestic politics and culture in Iran, however, entered a black box for Western-based social scientists soon afterwards. Left intellectuals, expatriate Iranian ones even more so, shied away from the subject. The Iranian revolution became one more Rorschach test for the post-68 generation in the age of Reagan and Clinton. Repentant liberals, with Schumpeterian democracy as their lodestar, wielded Iran against the fractious left. Unrepentant Marxists hurled the potato sacks of political Islam at the cultural theorists. Western feminists kept the patriarchal practices of the new Iranian state well-oiled in their arsenal.

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A Few Words From the Chair

Greetings, fellow PEWSers, from soggy upstate New York. I have just had the privilege of attending an excellent conference organized by Wilma Dunaway at Binghamton University's Fernand Braudel Center for the Study of Economies, Historical Systems, and Civilizations entitled "Gendered Commodity Chains: Bringing Households and Women into Global Commodity Chain Analysis".

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In other words, “actually-existing” Iran tended to be under-analyzed, even while the psychological effects of the very existence of an “Islamic” Republic savaged the world-historical expectations of the Western left as it oddly confirmed those of the neoconservative right.

This orientation inevitably produced a series of flabbergasted surprises at Iran’s dynamic social and political change over the subsequent decades. In 1997, Mohammad Khatami, a liberal-sounding cleric who as easily quoted Kant and Weber alongside Khomeini, was elected president of the country in a landslide. A seeming public rejection of 1979? Think again. In 2005, the proletarian-jacketed and non-cleric Mahmoud Ahmadinejad defeated cleric and former President Hashemi Rafsanjani in elections, even though the latter espoused the lax position on sociocultural liberties. A populist duping of the easily swayed masses? Maybe not. In 2009, the widely perceived dubiousness of Ahmadinejad’s re-election led to millions in the streets, a new “Green” movement for democracy, and a prologue to the Arab Spring of 2011. Outside analysts could barely keep up with events, let alone analyze them in world-historical terms.

Liberal (in both its “modernization” and “globalization” guises), culturalist, nationalist, and orthodox Marxist readings, all of which were imbibed internally in Iran by curious intellectuals before and after 1979, tended to reify one particular facet of the country’s politics but explained little of the popular dynamics. These outlooks simply confirmed the identity crisis of your typical semi-peripheral left intellectual - more historically aware than core thinkers, more knowledgeable linguistically, and more susceptible to slings and arrows from the state. Is it any wonder that such an environment could prove fertile for world-systems analysis? Instead of a historical outlier for world-systems analysis, Iran is our social scientific test case; all other approaches have miserably failed.

Yet other than John Foran, whose *Fragile Resistance: Social Transformation in Iran from 1500 to the Revolution* (1993, also published in Persian in Iran) is a commanding example of the world-systems approach towards nationalist historiography, and Anoush Ehteshami, who posits in *After Khomeini: The Iranian Second Republic* (1995) that Iran’s revolutionary interregnum was less important than its semi-peripheral status, the country remains far less analyzed than its regional neighbors in the world-systems literature. Nevertheless, the intellectual precursors to the world-systems approach were quite significant for the Iranian revolutionaries. As I point out in “ReOrienting Iran: Following Gunder Frank’s Advice One Decade at a Time,” (in 2011’s *Andre Gunder Frank and Global Development: Visions, Remembrances, and Explorations*), the 1979 Iranian Constitution is arguably one of the 20th century’s political documents most influenced by dependency theories. Iranian intellectuals saw their country as experiencing one more variant of “dependent capitalist development,” and the subsequent post-revolutionary struggles within a factionalized state over oil policy, land reform, and orientation towards the world economy all occurred in the shadow of the notion of “economic independence.”

As in most semi-peripheral areas in the post-Cold War era, intellectuals embittered with the coercive experiences of rapid state-building and its ideological justifications turned towards liberal explanations of developmental failure for Iran as well. In the mid to late 1990s, newly translated works from Habermas and Putnam were as available as Huntington and Fukuyama in Tehran’s many bookstores. Because the post-revolutionary consolidation never fully achieved a *Gleichschaltung* in the cultural arena, a “bringing into line” of all intellectual strands, a healthy competition of ideas emerged in the Islamic Republic. The limits of political liberalism and a vague notion of civil society became apparent when the Khatami administration lost the allegiance of its social base in the early 2000s. Habermasian dialogue did not survive into the harsh world of Bush’s America, and the semi-peripheral contradictions of the 21st century produced the figure of Ahmadinejad. It is in this environment that Wallerstein’s *Historical Capitalism and Geopolitics* and *Geoculture* were translated into Persian, as well as Arrighi’s “Marxist Century, American Century” and “The Social and Political Economy of Global Turbulence.” Arrighi’s final brilliant interview by David Harvey, “The Winding Paths of Capital,” was published in 2010 as a mini-booklet in Tehran. While Beverly Silver’s description of semi-peripheral politics as one of “running fast to stay in the same place” was coined for Israel, it is equally apropos for characterizing the puzzling sociopolitical outcomes in its *bête noire*, the Islamic Republic.

The exhaustion of intellectual alternatives over the post-revolutionary period, then, made *histoire totale* a promising approach for understanding Iran’s place in the world. Hardly irrelevant for semi-peripheral areas in a post-hegemonic world economy, world-systems analysis is ready for a renaissance. As the PEWS section is only a few months older than the Islamic Republic itself, we may better strengthen and continue our collective intellectual project by looking at the resonance of world-systems in Iran today.

By Kevan Harris, Johns Hopkins University



A Few Words From the Chair

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I was struck by the intellectual passion and empirical breadth of those working in this area. The presenters fleshed out how gender interacts with markets to generate myriad forms of unpaid and devalued waged labor most often in the world's economic periphery. I came away further convinced of the importance of creating an intellectual space for scholar-activists like those at this conference.

I am happy to report that the PEWS section's robust numbers will help ensure a number of opportunities for research in our field to be presented at next year's ASA. Thanks in part to this year's aggressive membership drive, our numbers are up! Our final count at the end of the year was 431 members, up by nearly 50 people from last year. We will, then, have four panels in addition to our round-table/business meeting at the 2012 ASAs in Denver. Our day will be Monday, August 20th. We will have an opportunity to hear papers on the relationship of the Arab Spring to world revolutions; the social origins and consequences of ecological vulnerabilities like climate change and research on initiatives that resist injustice and inequality around gender and sexuality including feminist perspectives on world-system thought. In addition, there will be an author-meets-critics session featuring leaders in our field on the 2010 PEWS book award recipient: Roberto Patricio Korzeniewicz and Timothy Patrick Moran's *Unveiling Inequality*. Thank you to all who sent in suggestions for the PEWS panels. I also want to encourage people to take advantage of our innovative approach to roundtables which can be utilized as an official meeting space to organize an intellectual exchange of your choosing.

As I was unable to do so at the meeting, I wanted to share with you what a treat it was to serve on the book award committee this past year. We had a healthy number of submissions which included books by some of the luminaries in our field. The other members of the committee (Leontin Hormel and John Talbot) and I engaged in a robust substantive discussion of the merits of several contenders before coming to our decision. I'd like to congratulate the winners of the book and article awards and encourage everyone to check out the descriptions of these scholarly contributions in the newsletter. This next year we would like to continue to ensure that award winners are listed in the ASA bulletin. With that in mind, we have set April 1st as the deadline for award submissions. Please do not hesitate to nominate your work or that of someone you admire.

Finally, I want to thank the outgoing chair, Paul Ciccantell for all of his work on behalf of the section this past year. Although I was unable to make it this past year due to illness, I heard that the panels which he put together showcased the wide scope and empirical richness of research being conducted by our members. Similarly, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Sandra Comstock for keeping us on task and taking care of so many details that help keep the section afloat.

In solidarity,

Leslie Gates

SUNY Binghamton

Changes at the Journal of World-Systems Research

The Journal of World-System Research (JWSR) is a pioneering electronic journal founded in 1994 by Christopher Chase-Dunn, as a publication outlet for scholarly research on world-systems. Under the founding editor's stewardship the journal published an array of cutting edge articles by leading scholars in the field, continuously update and refined online technology (at a time when very few scholarly journals even had a electronic version), and served as lively forum for conceptual and methodological debates between an engaged community of world-system scholars. At the time many academics were skeptical of online journals, questioned whether they were "real" and would be taken seriously, look askance at world-system analysis, etc. But under Chase-Dunn's leadership JWSR established a reputation for excellence, timeliness and technical sophistication – and became a model for other periodicals as they began to transition from "print only" to web-based electronic versions.

During Chase-Dunn's years of service at editor, a series of the most notable world-systems scholars acted as guest editors of special issues – and Walter Goldfrank was formal co-editor for some years. For much of this time it was, in effect, the unofficial journal of the Political Economy of the World-System (PEWS) section of the American Sociological Association; for several years (beginning nearly a decade ago) Chase-Dunn and others began exploring the possibility of making it an "official" journal not only of PEWS but of the ASA, as well.

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Changes at the JWSR Continued from page 3...

After a rather long struggle to convince the national ASA of the journal's quality and legitimacy (and overcome lingering doubts about a non-print journal), JWSR was officially recognized as an ASA publication in January 2008 (becoming the 11th official journal of the society, the second sponsored by a section, and the first – and still the only – exclusively electronic outlet).

The Kick/Jorgenson Era:

In January 2007, the editorial reigns of JWSR were passed to Ed Kick and Andrew Jorgenson. Ed Kick is a Professor and the Department Chair of Sociology and Anthropology at North Carolina State University. He earned his PhD from the University of Indiana and has served as the Chair of the Sociology Departments at the University of Utah and Middle Tennessee State University. An early proponent of various quantitative approaches to world-system analysis – and co-author of a well-known article on world-system networks in the *American Journal of Sociology* in 1979 – Kick's work centers around macro-comparative sociology, economic and environmental sustainability, militarization and globalization, etc. organizations. He has authored or coauthored over forty refereed journal articles, many in top sociology outlets including several in JWSR – and also served as Book Review Editor for a time at the journal. Andrew Jorgenson was an Assistant Professor at NCSU in 2007 and is now an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Utah. He earned his PhD in sociology from the University of California-Riverside. His interests revolve around global environmental change and the political economy of development, and he serves as a member of the ASA task force on Sociology and Global Climate exchange. In addition to numerous publications in the most prestigious sociology journals (*Social Problems*, *Social Forces*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* and JWSR), Professor Jorgenson has a forthcoming book (2012), tentatively titled, *Development, Inequality, and Global Environmental Change: A Sociological Approach*.

Kick and Jorgenson, like Chase-Dunn before them, developed a “team” to run the journal. Tom Hall, a Professor (now, as he will assure you, an “emeritus”) at Depauw University in Greencastle, Indiana served as the Book Review Editor; Laura McKinney a graduate student at NCSU was the Managing Editor; and Gregory Fulkerson, now an Assistant Professor at the State University of New York, College at Oneota was the Technical Editor. During this teams' tenure at JWSR the journal continued its rigorous review process, published an array of top-notch research and authors in global and comparative sociology, and published issues in pdf format using a simply dazzling of gorgeous graphics (jut take a look at the JWSR Archive: <http://jwsr.ucr.edu/archive/index.php>)! They published nearly 60 articles and scores of book reviews between 2007 and 2011, had an extremely successful run – and the PEWS section owes them an enormous debt of gratitude (especially since all of this was done with very minimal resources and financial support)!

Search for a New Editor:

In mid-2009, in accordance with ASA and section policy, a formal search for a new editor of JWSR got underway, under the direction of the PEWS Publications Committee (chaired by David A. Smith at UC-Irvine ably assisted by Nitsan Chorev of Brown and David Brady of Duke, along with the journal editors and the editor of PEWS NEWS, Kelly Austin of NCSU). We circulated a “call” for proposals to become the new JWSR in January 2010 via various e-lists and also posted it on the ASA website, in ASA Footnotes, etc. Candidly, there was not a huge rush to submit proposals – perhaps understandably, given the ratio of work to tangible rewards that journal editors receive. But we were very fortunate to get one proposal that was absolutely first-rate – and as a result Jackie Smith was selected to become the new Editor of JWSR beginning in January 2012.

Jackie Smith and Her New Editorial Team:

Jackie Smith is a just beginning in a new position as Professor of Sociology at the University of Pittsburgh this year. She earned her PhD in political science at the University of Notre Dame, and began her academic career at an Assistant and Associate Professor at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Later she returned to alma mater as an Associate Professor of sociology for several years. Her interests include peace studies, development and international organizations, and her work primarily focuses on social movements political and economic processes within a global context. She served as a Deputy Editor of *Mobilization* and also as senior editor of four published and one forthcoming volume on themes related to globalization and social movements. In addition to dozens of articles and book chapters in top journals in sociology, international studies and peace studies, Professor Smith's 2008 book, *Social Movements for Global Democracy*, received an honorable mention for the PEWS best book award. Forthcoming book projects include *Handbook of World Social Forum Activism*, 2011 (co-edited with Scott Byrd, Ellen Reese, and Elizabeth Smythe) and *Social Movements in the World-System: The Politics of Crisis and Transformation*, 2012 (with Dawn Wiest).

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Changes at the Journal of World-Systems Research Continued from pages 3-4

Jackie Smith's proposal included an impressive vision statement about her goals as incoming editor. It included maintaining the quality of articles on world-systems research but also ensuring a diverse array of disciplinary and methodological content in JWSR, calling for more attention to women and gender in the journal (including at least one special issue or section devoted to this research), exploring new technological frontiers for this outlet, publishing non-English language papers and integrating international scholars into the editorial board, expanding JWSR's links to social movements and the global South, increase journal visibility by getting it included in "impact factor" scoring systems, and suggesting several interesting and exciting potential topics for "symposia" in the journal. She also secured strong and generous support from the University of Pittsburgh for herself (via teaching release) and for office space, equipment and a university funded graduate assistant position to serve as Managing Editor.

Like her predecessors, Jackie Smith will be using an impressive team of scholars to run JWSR with Jennifer Bair as Book Review Editor and Scott Byrd as Technical and Production Editor.

Jennifer Bair an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Colorado will be the Book Review Editor. She is also a faculty affiliate in the Institutions program at the Institute for Behavioral Science. Her research in the political economy of gender, globalization and development has appeared in journals such as *World Development*, *Global Networks*, *Economy and Society*, *Signs*, *Environment and Planning A*, and *Globalizations*. She is the editor of *Frontiers of Commodity Chains Research* (Stanford University Press, 2009) and co-editor (with Gary Gereffi and David Spener) of *Free Trade and Uneven Development: The North American Apparel Industry After NAFTA* (Temple University Press, 2002). Given her expertise in using commodity chain analysis to understand labor and development issues, she has been asked to consult on a number of public sector and NGO projects in Latin America. Professor Bair is the most recent past chair of the Political Economy of the World-System section of the American Sociological Association and a member of the editorial board of the JWSR.

Scott Byrd is a Lecturer in Sociology at Murray State University in Kentucky (and currently finishing his doctoral dissertation at UC-Irvine). He has an impressive body of work as a junior scholar social movements, including publications on development, and the environment that have appeared in *Social Movement Studies*, *JWSR*, *Mobilization*, and *Globalizations*. He is co-editor of the forthcoming *Handbook on World Social Forum Activism* and has co-edited a special issue for the *Journal of World Systems Research*. In addition to his research on movement organizations, Byrd has played an active role in supporting and consulting for international and domestic networks in the areas of strategic online communication, website development, and new media—he looks forward to applying that technical expertise to his position with the *Journal of World Systems Research*.

So, in the coming year the *Journal for World-System Research* will be embarking on a new chapter at its University of Pittsburgh editorial office. The section journal is in very good hands and we look forward to seeing JWSR maintain its long-term reputation and quality while also moving in exciting new directions under Jackie Smith's able leadership!

By Nicole Shortt and David A. Smith, Department of Sociology, UC-Irvine

An Interview with the New Editor of JWSR

Nicole Shortt, a PhD student in the Department of Sociology at UC-Irvine, conducted an email interview in October 2011 with Professor Jackie Smith, the new editor of the *Journal of World Systems Research*. In the interview, Smith discusses the influence of world-systems research on her work, her involvement with the PEWS section, and her vision as editor.



Nicole Shortt: Your work cuts across several sociological fields, such as social movement research, political sociology, and the sociology of human rights--to what extent does world-systems analysis inform your research? Please tell us about some of your forthcoming projects.

Jackie Smith: World-systems analysis is the lens through which I see everything. As I continue to research and teach, I find it increasingly problematic to divide the world into distinct national societies as much of American sociology does. Of course, world-systems analysis gives us a way to understand why the field developed as it has, but I think we can do more to change fundamentally the nation-centered paradigm that informs our discipline. For instance, I explain to my "global sociology" class how the very title of the course is redundant, since there is no a priori reason to think that the study of society would not, by definition be global.

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An Interview with the New Editor of JWSR Continued from page 5

As the global financial crisis unfolds, this need to think beyond the state to understand both the nature of the crisis and the possibilities for change is becoming more apparent to a larger public, so more folks may be finding their way to world-systems research.

In social movements research, the state-centric frame has really limited our understandings of movements and even prevented us from making sense of the empirical fact that movements have always, throughout history, transcended the political boundaries imposed by political elites. From the diffusion of ideas about democracy in the 18th century to the quickening dissemination of tactics and analysis through today's social media, social movements are best seen as part of a world-system of social relations rather than as responses to particular national policies and conditions.

My forthcoming book, *Social Movements in the World-System: The Politics of Crisis and Transformation* (co-authored with Dawn Wiest & published by the Russell Sage Foundation's ASA Rose Series in Sociology), integrates theory and research on world-systems with that on social movements and in the world culture tradition. Each research tradition offers us something that can help us understand how institutions work and how groups mobilize for social change, but embedding the findings from the more meso- and micro- level areas of sociological research into a world-historic and world-systemic framework gives us some important insights into the dynamics of social change. I hope the book helps move us beyond the stale "agency versus structure" and "culture versus structure" debates and encourages more researchers to draw from the tools offered by world-systems analysis to really understand what's happening in the world today.

Nicole Shortt: How did you initially get involved with the PEWS section?

Jackie Smith: I got involved early in my career mainly because I was drawn to the work of PEWS scholars and found myself going to PEWS sessions at the ASA meetings. I started going to business meetings to learn more about the backstage discussions in the section. Even though I'm a member of several different ASA sections, I am most involved in PEWS because I appreciate that members of the section are actually concerned about and involved in efforts to promote social change. We're not just studying the world to understand it, but we want to make it better. More importantly, I think people in the section don't get so bogged down in debates about the proper role of scholars in society or about the ability to do 'objective' research while engaging in social movements. Our world-historic lens helps us situate ourselves, as scholars, within the larger society and within a social hierarchy that both benefits us and that we hope to help change.

Nicole Shortt: What is your vision for the Journal of World-Systems Research under your editorship?

Jackie Smith: Building on the work of my predecessors, I want to increase the visibility and readership of JWSR while continuing to publish high-quality research. But I also want to make the journal more inclusive of diverse voices. I think the current political moment gives us an opportunity to attract a much wider audience, and I hope we can encourage a flowering of dialogue, innovation, and creativity that will advance the study of world-systems. World-systems analysis offers insights into contemporary experience, and we need to bring this to new publics. One basic challenge here is that we need to expand our capacity to review and publish in languages other than English. I will work to address this limitation and learn from practices of other journals during my time as editor.

Because the journal is now more established, I have the benefit of being able to focus more energy on expanding and diversifying the content of the journal. I think it is important that we solicit and publish more work from scholars in the global South. I also hope to bring in voices of activists and to be more deliberate about working in collaboration and in dialogue with antisystemic movements. So readers may be seeing a regular symposium section that will foster this sort of interaction. Also, many may have noticed the relative lack of women scholars in the leadership and in the pages of the journal. I expect that our talented and energetic editorial team—which includes two women, our book review editor Jennifer Bair and myself—will help us be more effective at keeping a gendered lens focused on our study of world-systems. I think feminist theory and research has much to say that can enhance world-systems analysis, and feminism is certainly a major antisystemic force which deserves more serious attention from world-systems analysts.

JWSR was one of the very first online social science journals and I believe is the only electronic journal that is recognized as an official ASA journal. So we've been technological pioneers in a sense. Our technical editor, Scott Byrd, is well-placed to help us achieve the goals of expanding our audience and our global participation given his experience working with information-technology activists and practitioners. Scott's familiarity with open-source software and with transnational implementation of technology projects will be a real asset for the journal.



Awards and Recognitions

PEWS Distinguished Book Award

Bill Winders, *The Politics of Food Supply*

Bill Winders' book, *The Politics of Food Supply: U.S. Agricultural Policy in the World Economy*, is built around two questions: Why did U.S. agricultural supply management policy endure as long as it did? and What led policy makers to bring it to an end with the 1996 Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act? He examines historical archives from the 1920s to the 1990s to dig deeply into the actions of three major regional, agricultural segments in the U.S. – cotton, corn, and wheat. He uses Polanyi's concept of double movement to show how class, state, and market interact over time, at regional, national and global levels. Elaborately tracing congressional votes and hearings over this 70 year period, Winders finds that these segments initially worked together politically as a coalition, yet began to split apart as class relations transformed – most importantly in the South where large, commercial farming replaced plantations. These transformations fragmented the coalition and ultimately led to the decline of supply management policy in the passing of the 1996 FAIR Act.

Bill Winders makes an important contribution, by showing that U.S. agri-food policies cannot be properly understood unless we understand how agricultural sectors in the U.S. were connected to the world economy. At the same time, he highlights the importance of the class structures of production in the different sectors and the ways they were linked into the political policy-making process in the U.S. state. This kind of multi-level analysis is classic world-systems analysis. The committee members agreed that Bill Winders' research and argument embody an ambitious intellectual task and his work features the strengths of world-systems analysis. Yale University Press will be releasing a paperback edition of *The Politics of Food Supply* in Spring 2012. A new foreword that will appear in the paperback, which discusses how the history and development of US agricultural policy relates to the food crisis of 2007-2008.

PEWS Distinguished Book Award — Honorable Mention

Jozsef Borocz, *The European Union and Global Social Change*

Borocz' book, *The European Union and Global Social Change*, reframes how we understand not just the emergence of what is arguably the most economically important region today, that of the European Union, but also how we understand the historical rise of Western Europe. Drawing on an impressive command of analytical techniques of both qualitative and quantitative data, this book artfully assembles ample empirical evidence to show that the formation of the European Union is just the second attempt by Western European states to “fix” their light weight status in the world economy. Colonialism and its unique blend of politically-backed “armed trade,” he contends should be reframed as the first such attempt. This book tackles a level of analysis often overlooked in the political economy of the world-system literature, that of regional level political-economic processes, even as it exemplifies the power of a macro-historical approach to decode the economic logic undergirding seemingly political outcomes. This book revitalizes the world-system paradigm with a fresh interpretation of the historical seat of the capitalist world-system.

PEWS Distinguished Article Award

Wilma Dunaway

Dunaway, Wilma. 2010. “Nonwaged Peasants in the Modern World-System: African Households as Dialectical Units of Capitalist Exploitation and Indigenous Resistance, 1890-1930.” *The Journal of Philosophical Economics*: 4:1:19-57.

This article is a revisionist take on the longstanding view of capitalism and colonialism as progressive forces that broke down pre-capitalist social systems and transformed subjects into waged labor, often via an extended period of semi-proletarianization of households. Dunaway argues that, for most Africans, mixed livelihood households utilizing a variety of combinations of strategies from forced labor under near-slavery conditions to informal sector activities to wage labor remained a long term characteristic of African life. This situation provided a great deal of non-waged labor at very low cost to support a variety of capitalist commodity chains, enhancing surplus extraction by colonial firms and externalizing much of the cost of reproducing labor to these households. A particular strength of this analysis is the use of colonial and African primary sources that shed light on how this system operated and on its consequences for Europe and for African economies and households.

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Recognitions and Awards

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PEWS Distinguished Article Award — Honorable Mentions

Thomas Hall. 2009. "Puzzles in the Comparative Study of Frontiers: Problems, Some Solutions, and Methodological Implications." *Journal of World-Systems Research*: 15:1:25-47. The role of frontiers is an interesting and important topic in a variety of social science fields, and Hall's article brings together world-systems research and key works from other fields. The paper makes a strong case for the utility of studying processes of long term change in frontier areas.

Moore, Jason. 2010. "Amsterdam is Standing On Norway." *Journal of Agrarian Change*:10:1:33-68 and 10:2:188-227. This two-part article is a broad, integrative history of Europe and Latin America during the era of Spanish colonialism in Latin America and the rise of Holland to a dominant position in Europe. The key concept of "commodity frontier" is used to comparatively examine the roles of raw materials-supplying regions in Latin America and in Europe in supporting the development of the leading centers of the capitalist world-economy, most importantly Holland.

Sanderson, Matthew and Jeffrey Kentor. 2009. "Globalization, Development and International Migration: A Cross-National Analysis of Less-Developed Countries, 1970-2000." *Social Forces*: 88:1:301-336. This article brings world-systems theory to bear on one of the most important issues in sociology: international migration. The paper's discussion of methodological issues is carefully constructed and explicitly links theoretical concerns and methodological strategies and challenges, something that is often missing in the migration literature.

PEWS Terrence Hopkins Graduate Student Article Award

Kelly Austin

Austin, Kelly. 2010. "Soybean Exports and Deforestation from a World-Systems Perspective." *The Sociological Quarterly*:51:511-536.

This article examines the impacts of the rapid growth of soybean production for export on deforestation from a cross-national perspective, utilizing world-systems theory and the concept of ecologically unequal exchange. The paper's analysis raises critical concerns about the consequences of soybean export production in Latin America. In the context of efforts to replicate this development model in Africa, led by Brazilian agricultural firms, the resulting economic, social and environmental problems may soon spread to even more of the world.

Teaching and Mentorship Award from the Environment and Technology Section of the American Sociological Association

Richard York received this award for his especially dedicated service to the teaching of environmental sociology and effective training of graduate and undergraduate students. Congrats Richard!

Rural Sociology Best Paper Award and Honorable Mention for the Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award

Richard York also received the Rural Sociology Best Paper Award and Honorable Mention for the Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award for his collaborative paper with Shannon Elizabeth Bell titled, "Community Economic Identity: The Coal Industry and Ideology Construction in West Virginia." This paper was published in *Rural Sociology* in 2010.

Best Dissertation Prize from Labor History and the Thomas A. Kochan and Stephen R. Sleigh Best Dissertation Award

Lu Zhang received these recognitions for her outstanding dissertation (defended at John Hopkins University), titled: "From Detroit to Shanghai? Globalization, Market Reform, and Labor Politics in the Chinese Automobile Industry." Congrats!



Call for Papers

XXXVI Annual Conference on The Political Economy of the World System Labor, Democracy and Global Capital Clark University April 19-21, 2012

Crisis and stagnation, growth and industrialization; upward mobility among the hierarchy of nations and growing inequality within nations: all these are part of the world scene. In the core nations of the world system laborers and the labor movement were able to attain a modicum of social inclusion during the middle of the 20th Century. Can this be regained or duplicated on a world scale? In the course of the 19th and Twentieth Centuries, again among the rich countries, many previously excluded or marginalized groups obtained both the formal franchise and the promise of social inclusion. Under the institutional conditions of global capitalism can democratic aspirations once again be realized? This conference will focus on Labor and Democracy for the coming era.

- The Race to the Bottom: Labor, Environmental and Social standards in the global market. What is the evidence for geographical/political shift of investments from higher wage/ social standards jurisdictions to lower ones? What are the consequences? What should be done?
- The Fate of the “Welfare State.” In the Era of Neoliberalism and Globalised Capital can high wage, high benefit social regimes survive? Long term trends seem to indicate rising inequality and erosion of social benefits even among the more generous of the welfare capitalist nations. Is this temporary or reversible? Can workers in peripheral social formations enjoy the fruits of growth under conditions of neoliberal competition? What can be learned from the Chinese case?
- Democracy for Whom? Global Governance and International Financial Institutions (IFIs). The World Bank, the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund have been subject to long term criticism as agents for the rich in the rich countries. But now they claim to have reformed. Have they changed, and if so how? Are the IFIs a skeleton of world governance? If so, are the Enlightenment ideals of republican and democratic government relevant to the global future? If not, how are they to be governed and by whom?
- Formal/ informal: globalization, gender, and livelihood strategies. The flows of people from countryside to city or from poor or crisis regions to richer or growing regions highlight the challenges individuals, families, and communities face as they are incorporated into the global wage worker economy. How are formal and informal economies being (re)integrated in Northern and Southern contexts through migrations and livelihood strategies among the poor and disenfranchised? How are marginalized or subordinated groups, such as workers, women, and migrants, experiencing the global market and how are the forces of global capitalism supporting or neglecting these groups in new (or old) ways?

Submissions should be sent to pewsconference36@clarku.edu. Abstracts of 250 words on the general theme or on one of the specific subthemes, including full contact information for all authors should be sent by December 23, 2011. Accepted will be considered for a planned edited volume. Send other inquiries to Robert J.S. Ross (rjsross@clarku.edu). The Conference will be hosted at historic Clark University in Worcester, MA.



Recent Publications

Books:

Jeffrey Henderson. 2011. *East Asian Transformation*. New York: Routledge Press.

From the re-emergence of Japan as an industrial power in the 1950s through to the contemporary rise of China as a potential economic and political behemoth, the story of East Asian development has been central to any serious analysis of the dynamics and trajectory of the global political economy. Integrated into a coherent, critical narrative, this book examines key political-economic and social dynamics that helped forge the ‘miracle’ economies of East Asia and continue to drive them forward in the volatile circumstances of our current epoch. It analyses the relation between the state and markets; the changing nature of economic governance and its relation to inequality; and the rise of China and its international consequences. Historically informed and comparative in nature, the book contributes to the analysis of the transformations of Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia and China, and is the first to cover the ground in one volume. Written by a leading analyst of East Asian development, the book engages with the relevant issues and debates, in an open, non-technical language, making it useful as an advanced textbook not only for East Asian studies, but more generally in international political economy and development studies.

Mann, Charles C. 2011. *1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

This book is a follow up to his earlier 1491 which surveyed the Americas before Columbus. It traces the consequences of the “Columbian exchange”. Two issues of special interest. 1) Mann argues that globalization starts with Columbus's landing in the Americas and various items, notably commodities, microbes, flora, and fauna spread to and from the Americas to the rest of the world; 2) that our various contemporary concepts of race were socially constructed after 1492. None of this is “news” to world-system analysts, but the tale is well told here, and in ways quite accessible to students. As always with an account of academic debates summarized by a journalist, one needs to read critically. Still Mann, as before, is quite good. He is especially good in summarizing the intellectual currents surrounding various changes. A tease for those who have not seen the PR on 1493, both honey bees and earthworms came to the Americas with Europeans, vastly transforming the landscape and peppers -- as in hot peppers and bell peppers -- spread from the Americas very quickly around the world, vastly transforming many cuisines.

Bockman, Johanna. 2011. *Markets in the Name of Socialism: The Left-Wing Origins of Neoliberalism*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

The worldwide spread of neoliberalism has transformed economies, politics, and societies everywhere. In conventional accounts, American and Western European economists, such as Milton Friedman and Friedrich von Hayek, sold neoliberalism by popularizing their free-market ideas and radical criticisms of the state. Rather than focusing on the agency of a few prominent, conservative economists, *Markets in the Name of Socialism* reveals a dialogue among many economists on both sides of the Iron Curtain about democracy, socialism, and markets. These discussions led to the transformations of 1989 and, unintentionally, the rise of neoliberalism. This book takes a truly transnational look at economists' professional ideas over 100 years across the capitalist West and the socialist East. Clearly translating complicated economic ideas and neoliberal theories, it presents a significant reinterpretation of Cold War history, the fall of communism, and the rise of today's dominant economic ideology.

York, Richard and Brett Clark. 2011. *The Science and Humanism of Stephen Jay Gould*. New York: Monthly Review Press.

Stephen Jay Gould was not only a leading paleontologist and evolutionary theorist, he was also a humanist with an enduring interest in the history and philosophy of science. The extraordinary range of Gould's work was underpinned by a richly nuanced and deeply insightful worldview. Richard York and Brett Clark engage Gould's science and humanism to illustrate and develop the intellectual power of Gould's worldview, particularly with regard to the philosophy of science. They demonstrate how the Gouldian perspective sheds light on many of the key debates occurring not only in the natural sciences, but in the social sciences as well. They engage the themes that unified Gould's work and drove his inquiries throughout his intellectual career, such as the nature of history, both natural and social, particularly the profound importance of contingency and the uneven tempo of change. They also assess Gould's views on structuralism, highlighting the importance of the dialectical interaction of structural forces with everyday demands for function, and his views on the hierarchical ordering of causal forces, with some forces operating at large scales and/or over long spans of time, while others are operating on small scales and/or occur frequently or rapidly. York and Clark also address Gould's application of these principles to understanding humanity's place in nature, including discussions of human evolution, sociobiology, and the role of art in human life. Taken together, this book illuminates Gould's dynamic understanding of the world and his celebration of both science and humanism.

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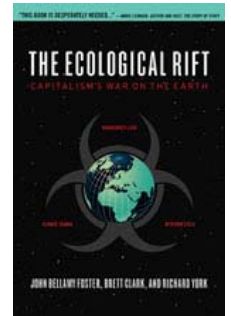
Recent Publications

Philip McMichael. 2011. *Development and Social Change. A Global Perspective, 5th Edition.* Sage Press.

In his Fifth Edition, author Philip McMichael examines the project of globalization and its instabilities (climate, energy, food, financial crises) through the lens of development and its origins in the colonial project. The book continues to help students make sense of a complex world in transition and explains how globalization became part of public discourse. Filled with case studies, this text makes the intricacies of globalization concrete, meaningful, and clear for students and moves them away from simple social evolutionary views, encouraging them to connect social change, development policies, global inequalities and social movements. The book challenges readers to see themselves as global citizens whose consumption decisions have real social and ecological implications.

Foster, John Bellamy, Brett Clark, and Richard York. 2010. *The Ecological Rift: Capitalism's War on the Earth.* New York: Monthly Review Press.

Humanity in the twenty-first century is facing what might be described as its ultimate environmental catastrophe: the destruction of the climate that has nurtured human civilization and with it the basis of life on earth as we know it. All ecosystems on the planet are now in decline. Enormous rifts have been driven through the delicate fabric of the biosphere. The economy and the earth are headed for a fateful collision—if we don't alter course. In *The Ecological Rift: Capitalism's War on the Earth*, environmental sociologists John Bellamy Foster, Brett Clark, and Richard York offer a radical assessment of both the problem and the solution. They argue that the source of our ecological crisis lies in the paradox of wealth in capitalist society, which expands individual riches at the expense of public wealth, including the wealth of nature. In the process, a huge ecological rift is driven between human beings and nature, undermining the conditions of sustainable existence: a rift in the metabolic relation between humanity and nature that is irreparable within capitalist society, since integral to its very laws of motion. Critically examining the sanguine arguments of mainstream economists and technologists, Foster, Clark, and York insist instead that fundamental changes in social relations must occur if the ecological (and social) problems presently facing us are to be transcended. Their analysis relies on the development of a deep dialectical naturalism concerned with issues of ecology and evolution and their interaction with the economy. Importantly, they offer reasons for revolutionary hope in moving beyond the regime of capital and toward a society of sustainable human development.



Articles, Book Chapters, and Special Issues:

- *Globalizations* Journal Offers Special Section on Arab Spring and Global Protests:

As the “October Offensive” of occupations spreads around the country and world, the October 2011 issue of *Globalizations* (Vol. 8, No. 5) features a very timely collection of commentaries on the Arab Spring and related protests in Europe and elsewhere. Among the contributors is section member Jackie Smith, who relates the Middle East protests to the larger context of world-systemic crisis and movement. This collection of short commentaries may be useful in classes and for other settings where people are trying to make sense of the “Occupy Wall Street” and “Occupy Together” protests.

Almeida, Paul D. 2011. *Olas de Movilización Popular: Movimientos Sociales en El Salvador, 1925-2010.* San Salvador: UCA Editores.

Arrighi, Giovanni and Lu Zhang. 2011. “Beyond the Washington Consensus: A New Bandung?” Pp.25-57 in *Globalization and Beyond: New Examinations of Global Power and its Alternatives*, edited by Shefner, Jon and Patricia Fernández-Kelly. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press.

Chow Esther N. 2010. “Citizenship Divided, Education Deprived: Gender and Migrant Children's Rights to Schooling in Urban China” in *Contours of Citizenship: Women, Diversity and Practices of Citizenship.* London: Ashgate Press.

Chow Esther N. 2011. “Globalization and Locality: The Gendered Impact of the Economy Crisis on Intersectionality, Migration, and Work in China” in *Analyzing Gender Intersectionality and Multiple Inequalities: Global, Transnational and Local Contexts.* London, Emerald Press.

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Recent Publications

- Dougherty, Michael L. 2011. "The Global Gold Mining Industry, Junior Firms and Civil Society Resistance in Guatemala." *Bulletin of Latin American Research* 30(4): 403-418.
- Hough, Phillip A. 2011. "Guerrilla Insurgency as Organized Crime: Explaining the So-Called 'Political Involution' of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia," *Politics and Society* 39(3): 379-414.
- Hough, Phillip A. 2011. "Disarticulations and Commodity Chains: Cattle, Coca and Capital Accumulation along Colombia's Agricultural Frontier," *Environment and Planning A, Theme Issue: Losing our Chains: Rethinking Commodities through Disarticulations* 43(5): 1016-1034.
- Reifer, Tom. 2010. "Lawyers, Guns & Money: Wall Street Lawyers, Investment Bankers & Global Financial Crises." Nexus: Chapman's Journal of Law & Public Policy: Chapman University School of Law. Volume 15.
- Reifer, Tom. 2009. "Capital's Cartographer: Giovanni Arrighi: 1937-2009" *New Left Review*. Volume 60 Nov-Dec 2009.
- Reifer, Thomas. 2010 "Beyond Divide & Rule? From the Washington to the Beijing Consensus," Pp 1-52 in *Geopolitics and Trajectories of Development: The Cases of Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Germany, and Puerto Rico*. Institute of East Asian Studies at UC Berkeley.
- Roberts, J. Timmons. 2011. "Multipolarity and the New World (Dis)order: US Hegemonic Decline and the Fragmentation of the Global Climate Regime." *Global Environmental Change* 21(3): 776-784.
- Schaeffer, Robert K. 2011. *Red Inc: Dictatorship and the Development of Capitalism in China, 1949 to the Present*. Boulder, CO: Paradigm Publishers.
- Spires, Anthony J. 2011. "Organizational Homophily in International Grantmaking: US-Based Foundations and their Grantees in China." *Journal of Civil Society* 7(3): 305-331.
- York, Richard, Christina Ergas, Eugene A. Rosa, and Thomas Dietz. 2011. "It's a Material World: Trends in Material Extraction in China, India, Indonesia, and Japan." *Nature and Culture* 6(2): 103-122.
- York, Richard and Christina Ergas. 2011. "Women's Status and World-System Position: An Exploratory Analysis." *Journal of World-Systems Research* 17(1): 147-164.
- Zhang, Lu. 2011. "The Paradox of Labor Force Dualism and State-Labor-Capital Relations in the Chinese Automobile Industry." Pp.107-137 in *From Iron Rice Bowl to Informalization: Markets, Workers, and the State in a Changing China*, edited by Kuruvilla, Sarosh, Ching Kwan Lee, and Mary E. Gallagher. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Job Postings

The Department of Sociology & Anthropology at the University of Idaho invites applications for two tenure-track Assistant Professor positions in sociology beginning in fall 2012. We seek applicants with a specialization in criminology or deviance who demonstrate the ability to pursue a strong research and publication agenda and a commitment to teaching excellence. A Ph.D. in sociology, or in a closely related field with a demonstrated background in sociology, is required by the time of appointment. We desire applicants whose research and teaching contribute to departmental strengths in inequalities/diversity, globalization or human communities. The teaching load is five courses per year including courses in criminology, core sociology courses, and other courses consistent with the candidate's scholarly interests. We are especially interested in qualified candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the academic community. Effective teaching experience at a four-year higher education institution and an interest in grant seeking are preferred. Apply online at: <http://www.hr.uidaho.edu> Closing date for applications is December 12, 2011 or until a suitable candidate is identified. For additional information about the position, please see: <http://sitecore.uidaho.edu/class/socanthro>



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PEWS NEWS

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Look for the Spring Issue of **PEWS NEWS** in March/April 2012!

Special thanks to the contributors and those who helped produce this issue of PEWS NEWS:

Sandra Comstock, Paul Ciccantell, Leslie Gates, David Smith, Kevan Harris, Jackie Smith, and Nicole Shortt



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