A Few Words from the Chair

It was great to see many of you at the 2008 ASA meeting. Thanks to past chair Shelley Feldman and the Council for putting together a great program, and thanks to all who attended our sessions. On the social side, those of you who made it to Boston will know that our section reception at Lir’s Irish Pub was quite a success. We ran up an impressive tab over the course of the evening, but I believe that was due primarily to robust attendance rather than excessive consumption! Since our section day was the last day of the conference, I realize that many of you might not have been able to attend our business meeting, which was scheduled for late afternoon. I wanted, therefore, to use this opportunity to share some information regarding the PEWS program that has been submitted for the 2009 ASA meeting, and to invite feedback on the preliminary planning we’ve done for the PEWS mini-conference that will take place the day before the start of the annual meeting next August.

Under the ASA session allocation formula, PEWS will have three section-sponsored sessions at the 2009 meeting in San Francisco. One of these will be an invited session reflecting on the scholarship of Giovanni Arrighi. We’ve been able to confirm the participation of a terrific set of panelists, including Janet Abu-Lughod, Michael Burawoy, Peter Evans, and Greta Krippner, so I think this is shaping up to be an exciting discussion of Giovanni’s contributions to the political economy of world-systems and macrosociology more generally. The second session, which is being organized by chair-elect Jeffrey Kentor and Denis O’Hearn is entitled “35 Years Since the The Modern World-System I: The current status and future prospects of world systems analysis.” This panel will use the anniversary of the publication of Wallerstein’s first volume of The Modern World-System as an opportunity to bring together both adherents and skeptics of the perspective to highlight the major contributions of world systems analysis and consider “where we go from here.” Albert Bergesen is organizing the third PEWS session for the 2009 meeting, which will focus on “The Return of the Geopolitical.” Among other developments on the world stage, recent events in the Caucasus have underscored the need to reconsider, or theorize anew, classical geopolitical dynamics and themes. Therefore, this session will invite papers dealing with the distinctly geopolitical processes or structures of the world-system.

In addition to the three regular sessions, we will also have our section roundtables, which will be organized this year by Sandra Comstock and Jake Lowinger. More information on the program and the procedure for
submissions will be forthcoming in a call for papers. Finally, the 2009 ASA program will also feature a regular session on world-systems analysis that Beverly Silver has been invited to organize for the ASA program committee. So between our three section-organized sessions, the roundtables and the regular world-systems session, there will be many opportunities for our section members to participate in San Francisco—-including our mini-conference!

The Polanyian-inspired theme of the 2009 mini-conference, which will take place on August 7, is “The Social and Natural Limits of Global Capitalism.” Though we haven’t yet confirmed the venue for the mini-conference, it will be in the Bay area and hopefully conveniently close to the conference hotels. PEWS is co-organizing this event with two other sections, Environment & Technology and Marxist Sociology. The program is still taking shape, but some PEWS members have already suggested possible topics and even volunteered to organize panels, so thanks to those of you who have offered input. There will be much more information forthcoming on the mini-conference, including a call for papers later this fall, but in the meantime, I invite any and all feedback, including proposals for possible sessions, speakers, venues, etc. More generally, I look forward to working with the Council and with the PEWS membership over the course of this year, so please be in touch if you have any suggestions or concerns.

Thank you!
Jennifer Bair
PEWS President

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Awards and Recognitions
PEWS Book Award

Congratulations Jennifer Bickham Mendez and Michael Goldman!

The Political Economy of the World-System Section Book Award is given each year in recognition of a monograph that exemplifies outstanding scholarship in global or comparative-international sociology. The winners of the 2008 PEWS book award are Jennifer Bickham Mendez for “From the Revolution to the Maquiladoras: Gender, Labor and Globalization in Nicaragua" and Michael Goldman for "Imperial Nature: The World Bank and Struggles for Social Justice" (Yale U Press).

“From the Revolution to the Maquiladoras: Gender, Labor and Globalization in Nicaragua" (Duke U Press) by Jennifer Bickham Mendez is an ethnographic account of a women’s NGO during a period of profound political and economic transformation in Central America. This organization, the Nicaraguan Working and Unemployed Women’s Movement Maria Elena Cuadra (MEC) was established by women activists who felt that their concerns were adequately represented neither by the Sandinista regime nor the organized labor movement. Yet despite their grievances with these groups, Jennifer Bickham Mendez shows how these activists were shaped by the Sandinista struggle and how their formation in this revolutionary context influenced the trajectory of their movement. Having observed and worked with the organization nearly from its inception, the author was well-poised to document the group’s challenges and triumphs in calling attention to the situation of women workers in Nicaragua’s maquiladoras. She demonstrates how these activists positioned themselves vis-à-vis other local and international actors comprising the emerging anti-sweatshop movement, and her analysis highlights the possibilities and pitfalls of this form of organizing. Bickham-Mendez produces a rich description
of the transnational networking and activism that exemplify what many refer to as global civil society. But unlike much of the civil society literature, Bickham Mendez attends also the question of social difference, and shows how this space of global civil society is produced on the ground at the intersection of Nicaragua’s political history and its contemporary insertion in the global economy.”

“Imperial Nature: The World Bank and Struggles for Social Justice” by Michael Goldman is an institutional ethnography that demonstrates how the World Bank has transformed concerns about the environmental implications of global capitalism into what Michael Goldman calls a green neoliberal regime. Goldman emphasizes the importance of knowledge production activities in securing green neoliberalism, showing how the World Bank’s power is fundamentally linked to a particular way of seeing and knowing, as well as acting on, the world. In the era of the supposed post-Washington Consensus, Goldman provides us with an empirically rich and detailed account that takes the reader inside this important institution. His eloquent analysis suggests that the changes which have occurred at the Bank over the last two decades have largely involved the consolidation of a new neoliberal hegemony through which specific forms of capitalist expansion, and the transnational governance structures that attend them, are legitimated.”

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New Stanford Appointment at the CCSRE

On the 19th of August, 2008, Pat Lauderdale was appointed as a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE) at Stanford University. Professor Lauderdale is an international scholar known for his long standing work on Global Indigenous Social Movements and Rights as well as his research on North American Indian Jurisprudence. He also brings his expertise in Law, Conflict, and Social Sciences to the Center. His seminal book entitled Law & Society (with James Inverarity and Barry Feld) has been translated into Japanese with a forthcoming version in Chinese.

Established in November 1996, the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity at Stanford University provides many opportunities for teaching and research on topics of race and ethnicity from both domestic and international comparative perspectives. The Center draws on the intellectual interests of over one hundred Affiliated Faculty representing fifteen departments and programs and five different schools at Stanford.
Conference Updates

PEWS 2009, University of San Diego, Call for Papers

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

World-systems analysis, as critique of the existing structures of knowledge, violence and power, has made important contributions to our understanding of the global system. These analyses have ranged from nuanced explorations of world-regions, to the changing social foundations of successive hegemonies, to global power and inequalities - including of race, ethnicity, class, gender and nation - to the study of social movements seeking to transform the global system in more democratic, peaceful and egalitarian directions.

This conference focuses on cutting edge research and debates about the challenges of the 21st century, including of issues sometimes neglected in world-system analysis. Special attention will be given to questions of violence, religion and other “imagined communities” of the sacred (including “nations”), world-regions, world inequalities, global ecology and the possibilities for creating a democratic and ecologically sustainable world-society based on the principles of peace and social justice. Topics to be discussed include: a) world-regions and global transformations b) violence, the sacred and the global system c) global power and inequalities and d) world-systems analysis and the challenges of the 21st century.

A) World-Regions & Global Transformations

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

B) Violence, the Sacred, and the Global System

The study of violence in the global system has ranged from the analysis of structural and symbolic violence to the exploration of physical violence, especially in organized forms such as warfare, massacre, genocide and torture. This panel aims to explore questions of structural, symbolic or physical violence as related to larger questions of the sacred/profane, with a special emphasis on religion and other imagined communities of the sacred (including of the “nation,” peoples and related civilizational identities) that have played major roles in the expansion of the global system and/or resistance to its attendant inequalities of wealth and power. Examples include Native American and other indigenous and syncretic religions, Judeo-Christianity, Catholicism, liberation theology, Pentecostalism and political Islam. This panel will explore these intersections, with a focus on contemporary issues.
C) Global Power & Inequalities
Global inequalities of race, ethnicity, class, gender and nation have been constitutive elements of modernity. Today, there is also a growing awareness of how unequal ecological appropriation, biological exchanges and socio-ecological relations have played critical roles in the making of global power and inequality. This panel invites papers speaking to questions of world power and inequalities, especially those focusing on ecology. Of special interest too are papers that deal simultaneously with questions of power and inequalities and the structures of knowledge.

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

Fernand Braudel Center for the Study of Economies, Historical Systems, and Civilizations

“The Longue Durée and World-Systems Analysis”
Binghamton University, October 24-25, 2008


Preregistration is strongly recommended.
Deadline: Monday, October 13, 2008

Friday, October 24
11 am – 1 pm Registration, Green Room, Fine Arts Bldg.
1:15 – 1:30 pm Welcome
Richard E. Lee, Director, Fernand Braudel Center
1:30 – 2:30 pm Keynote Address
Immanuel Wallerstein, Senior Research Scholar, Yale Univ.; former director, Fernand Braudel Center
“Braudel on the Longue Durée: Problems of Conceptual Translation”
2:30 – 3 pm Coffee break
3 – 5 pm Session I
Jason Moore, Human Ecology, Lund University; Geography, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
“An America on Europe’s Doorstep”: An Environmental History of the Capitalist
North Atlantic, 1450-1800”
Juan Giusti-Cordero, History, Univ. of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras
“Rethinking the Caribbean Atlantic: Ecology and History in the Spanish Antilles,
16th-18th Centuries”
Philip McMichael, Development Sociology, Cornell Univ.
“In the Short Run Are We All Dead? A Perspective on the Development Climate”

Saturday, October 25
8:30 – 9 am Registration, Green Room, Fine Arts Bldg.
9 – 11 am Session II
Eric Mielants, Sociology, Fairfield Univ.
“Long Term Challenges for the Longue Durée in the Social Sciences”
Wilma A. Dunaway, Public and International Affairs, Virginia Tech.
“The Semiproletarian Household in the Longue Durée of the Modern World-System”
Richard E. Lee, Sociology and Director, Fernand Braudel Center
“The Longue Durée and the Status of “Superstructures”
11 – 11:30 am Coffee break
11:30 am – 1:30 pm Session III
Peter J. Taylor, Geography, Loughborough Univ.
“History and Geography: Braudel’s “Extreme Longue Durée” as Generics?”
Jose Mota Lopes, DLLL, Syracuse Univ.
“Understanding the Present in the Longue Durée: History and the Immediate in the Work of Braudel and Wallerstein”
Dale Tomich, Sociology and History, Deputy Director, Fernand Braudel Center
“The Order of Historical Time: The Longue Durée and Microhistory”
1:30 – 2:30 pm Lunch, University Union room 252, included in registration fee,
preregistration required
2:30 – 4:30 pm Session IV
Ravi Arvind Palat, Sociology and Fernand Braudel Center
“Nomads and Kings: State-Making in Asia over the Longue Durée, 1000-1700”
Beverly J. Silver, Sociology, Johns Hopkins Univ.
“A Longue Durée Theory of Global Inequality”
Giovanni Arrighi, Sociology, Johns Hopkins Univ.
“Braudel, Economics and Historical Sociology: A Personal Recollection”
PEWS Council Notes

Elections

Jeffrey D. Kentor, University of Utah, Chair-Elect
John M. Talbot, University of the West Indies, Council Member
Leontina Hormel, University of Idaho, Council Member
Kaan Agartan, SUNY-Binghamton, Student Representative

World System Activism

The ASA PEWS section has begun to support researchers who study the Social Forum process and members who would like to participate. At this point $500 has been allocated to help PEWS members attending the World Social Forum meeting in Belem, Para, Brazil in January of 2009. Marina Karides will be there and others are encouraged to join her. PEWS will pay for conference registrations and the costs of 2-4 sessions on relevant topics of research.

Belem, the site of the WSF09, is a port city near the mouth of the Amazon River. The conference will focus on Amazonia, the massive drainage basin that links several South American countries, and on environmental and indigenous issues. Those interested in attending should contact Marina Karides, Sociology, Florida Atlantic University, Davie, FL 33314 USA mkarides@fau.edu or mkarides@gmail.com

Recent Publications

Books


This book is based on eleven years of fieldwork in a poor community on the outskirts of Guadalajara, Mexico. Those years were a period of extensive change in Mexico, as political democratization was instituted during a period of unremitting neoliberal globalization. The political economy of neoliberalism, Shefner argues, opened alternatives to the community organization, limiting state spending prerogatives and creating a political environment in which diverse organizations worked together across class and status lines to achieve common goals. Positive changes in political process, however, did not translate into gains for the neighborhoods; later periods of fieldwork demonstrated little material progress for the community. The lack of material progress despite a coalesced opposition suggests that theories regarding the contribution of civil society are unduly optimistic and analytically problematic. The coalescing of poor and middle class organizations appeared to be the quintessential case of civil society mobilizing for common cause. However, an internal hierarchy privileged organizations representing higher class and status constituencies over their poor counterparts. Decisions over strategy and goals were imposed by the more powerful organizations. After the transition to electoral democracy, the coalition broke apart, leaving the organization of the poor without their allies. These experiences show the unity of civil society is illusory at best; that societal hierarchy is re-created even in progressive coalitions, and that those disadvantaged groups that enter into civil society activity may be no less disadvantaged when struggles end.

**Articles**


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**Job Announcements**

**University of Utah**
The Department of Sociology ([www.soc.utah.edu](http://www.soc.utah.edu)) invites applications for a tenure track position at the level of Assistant or Associate Professor. We seek a quantitative sociologist who will contribute to the Department specialty in Comparative International Sociology (description available at [www.soc.utah.edu/graduate/description.html](http://www.soc.utah.edu/graduate/description.html)). Candidates should have the Ph.D. in Sociology by Summer 2009 at latest. The successful applicant will have a strong background in quantitative methods, along with a record of or clear potential for achieving excellence in teaching and success in research commensurate with rank, including extramural funding and a well-defined research agenda. All research areas within a general comparative-international framework will be considered. However, we are particularly interested in research that focuses on organizations, environment, development, urbanization, and state theory. Applicants should be prepared to teach advanced quantitative methods at the graduate level, along with other courses that enhance our teaching mission. The sociology program awards the BS/BA, MA, and Ph.D., with about 400 undergraduate majors and a growing doctoral program. The University of Utah values candidates who have experience working in settings with students from diverse backgrounds, and possess a strong commitment to improving access to higher education for historically underrepresented students. Review of applications will begin 17 October 2008 and continue until the position is filled. Please send (1) a letter describing research and teaching interests, (2) a curriculum vita, (3) samples of scholarly work, and (4) three letters of recommendation to: Comparative Sociology Search Committee, University of Utah, Department of Sociology, 380 S 1530 E Room 301, Salt Lake City, UT 84112-0250. Position availability is contingent upon final budgetary approval. The University of Utah is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer, encourages applications from women and minorities, and provides reasonable accommodation to the known disabilities of applicants and employees.

**Positions in Sociology at Stony Brook**
Stony Brook University invites applications for two full-time positions at the level of tenure-track Assistant or Associate Professor to augment the department's focus on global approaches to Sociology. Expertise in advanced quantitative methods or ethnographic methods is also especially desirable in addition to applicant's topical specialization. PhD required or anticipated completion of PhD by August 1, 2009. Stony Brook, located 60 miles from Manhattan, is a diverse, research-oriented university and the Department of Sociology has an active, high quality PhD program. Application Deadline: to receive full consideration,
applicants should send their materials by October 15, 2008. To apply, applicants should send a letter summarizing their relevant research accomplishments, future research agenda, teaching experience, a Curriculum Vitae, three letters of recommendation, and copies of one lengthy or two shorter writings (which cannot be returned) (Further written materials will be requested as needed) to: Chair, Selection Committee, Department of Sociology, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794-4356. Women and minorities are especially encouraged to apply. Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Visit www.stonybrook.edu/cjo for further details about this position and other employment opportunities.

Middle Tennessee State University.
The College of Liberal Arts invites applications for the position of Chairperson, Department of Sociology and Anthropology. The position, available August 1, 2009, includes academic, administrative, and leadership responsibilities for a department with 20 full-time faculty (thirteen sociologists and seven anthropologists), 90 undergraduate sociology majors, and 90 undergraduate anthropology majors. The department also offers a Master of Arts in Sociology with approximately 30 graduate students. The position is tenure-track with immediate consideration for tenure possible. Applicants must qualify for appointment at the rank of professor. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. Qualifications include: (1) an earned doctorate in Sociology or Anthropology and an appreciation and understanding of both disciplines; (2) demonstrated scholarly achievement; (3) demonstrated excellence in teaching; (4) demonstrated record of sound fiscal management of complex budgets; and (5) demonstrated leadership abilities and strong interpersonal and problem-solving skills. The chair is expected to teach each semester. Review of applications will begin October 1, 2008, but applications will be accepted and considered until the position is filled. Letter of application referencing position title, plus curriculum vitae, academic transcripts, and three letters of recommendation should be sent to: Hilary Stallings, College of Liberal Arts, Faculty Recruitment, Middle Tennessee State University, Box 546, Murfreesboro, TN 37132. Visit www.mtsu.edu/~libarts2 for more information. MTSU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer.

Mershon Center Seeks Applicants in Peace Studies.
The Mershon Center for International Security Studies at The Ohio State University is seeking applicants for one of several possible positions open in the area of peace studies.

1. **Endowed Chair in Peace Studies.** The Mershon Center is seeking applications for its Endowed Chair in Peace Studies. This is a senior tenured position as a full professor. The purpose of the chair is to promote research and education on the foundations of peace and strategies for conflict resolution. The chair will be expected to design a broad program in peace studies that complements other activities at the Mershon Center. We are open as to the background and discipline of the candidate. Scholars at the Mershon Center come from a variety of departments including political science, history, sociology, psychology, law, and philosophy. A distinguished record of publication and teaching is expected. We are also interested in candidates who have experience dealing with violent conflict and its aftermath in either a governmental or non-governmental context. The chair will be expected to carry a half-time teaching load, devoting the other half of his or her time to activities at the Mershon Center, which will include both research and practical pursuits related to peace studies.
2. **Visiting Instructors in Peace and Conflict Resolution.** The Mershon Center also welcomes applications for visiting instructors in peace and conflict resolution. Ph.D. is required by August 2009, and preference will be given to those with a Ph.D. and teaching experience. Visiting instructors will teach one course each quarter, or three courses a year. One course may be taught twice. We are open as to the discipline of the candidates, but they must demonstrate the ability to teach courses in peace and conflict resolution in a recognized discipline or in Ohio State’s interdisciplinary International Studies Program. Visiting instructors will be expected to participate in the activities of the Mershon Center.

3. **Visiting Scholar in Peace Studies.** The Mershon Center also welcomes applications for visiting scholars to do research in peace studies and participate in the activities of the Mershon Center. They may be in residence at the center for anywhere from one to nine months. Visiting scholars may be senior practitioners with experience negotiating for a government agency or non-governmental organization, or they may be established academics with a solid record of research.

The Mershon Center is not likely to fill all three positions in peace studies; the exact positions we decide to fill are contingent on funding and on the applications we receive. The search will remain open until the Endowed Chair in Peace Studies is filled.

The Mershon Center for International Security Studies advances the understanding of national security in a global context by fostering interdisciplinary faculty and student research in three areas of focus: the use of force and diplomacy; the ideas, identities, and decisional processes that affect security; and the institutions that manage violent conflict. For more information, please see the center’s web site at [http://mershoncenter.osu.edu](http://mershoncenter.osu.edu).

Applicants for any of the three positions should submit a letter of interest, current curriculum vitae or resume, and the names of three references to:

Peace Studies Search  
Mershon Center for International Security Studies  
1501 Neil Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43201-2602  
Attn: Melanie Mann

**University of Leeds**

**Sustainability Research Institute, School of Earth and Environment**

Chair in Environmental Social Science  
Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Environmental Policy  
Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Environment and Development

With over 30 staff and 35 PhD students, the Sustainability Research Institute (SRI) is now one of the largest concentrations of environmental social scientists in the UK. It is a thriving research institute situated in one of the strongest Schools of Earth and Environmental Sciences. SRI has received significant research funding from various sources, including the recent award of £5.5 million from the ESRC to establish the Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy (in partnership with the LSE).
Research within the SRI draws on disciplines which span the environmental social sciences and that combine social and natural sciences in leading-edge, interdisciplinary research. As well as being a centre of excellence for inter-disciplinary research, SRI runs a range of postgraduate and undergraduate programmes on the different dimensions of sustainability.

**Chair in Environmental Social Sciences**
We are seeking to appoint a leading environmental social scientist with connections to our core research areas and a commitment to inter-disciplinary research. The appointee will have a world-class record of peer-reviewed publications and a strong and ongoing track record of research income generation. They will be highly esteemed within their field, and demonstrate momentum for further enhancement in their profile into the future. They will have a significant impact on the research profile of SRI and they will be expected to contribute to its on-going management and development. They will also be expected to make a contribution to teaching based on their research expertise.

Professor - University Grade 10, salary range (from May 2008) £51,095 to £68,665. Closing date - Friday May 30th 2008, interviews July 8th 2008.

**Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Environmental Policy**
**Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Environment and Development**
We are seeking to recruit to two positions that will help develop our research capabilities in the fields of environmental policy and environment and development. You should have a strong publications record in relevant fields and relevant teaching experience. We also encourage applications from those with interests that relate to climate change or with experience in inter-disciplinary research that combines social and natural sciences. Applications from early career academics are also welcome.

Further details concerning the SRI can be found at [http://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/research/sri/index.htm](http://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/research/sri/index.htm)
Informal enquiries to Prof Andy Gouldson, Director of the SRI (tel +44 (0)113 343 6417 email a.gouldson@see.leeds.ac.uk).

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**Call for PEWSNews Editor**

After three years of serving as PEWSNews editor, it’s time to pass the baton and recruit a new person for the position. I can say that it is a great way to meet dedicated people in the field and get experience working with an ASA Council. If you are considering the position and have any questions about the newsletter, feel free to write to me.

Take care,

Becky Clausen

rclausen@uoregon.edu