



PEWS NEWS

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE WORLD-SYSTEM AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
VOLUME 16 ISSUE 2

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I just wanted to make a preliminary announcement about PEWS-related activities at this year's ASA Meetings in Seattle. I am hoping you will be able to participate and attend the following events.

1) The day before the opening of ASA (August 19) PEWS is a co-sponsor of the Labor and Labor Movements mini-conference, "Precarious Work: Domination and Resistance in The US, China and The World." More information can be found at: <http://irle.ucla.edu/events/PrecariousWork.php>

2) On the evening of Monday, August 22 PEWS will be holding a joint reception with the Sociology of Development section. Past chair of PEWS David Smith has graciously offered space to hold the reception with a spectacular view of Seattle. More details on the event will be provided as the ASA approaches.

3) We have several ASA section panels organized for Seattle, including

a) Roundtables organized by Jeb Sprague and Victoria Reyes

b) Panel I: "An intersectional approach to global political economy and world-systems analysis." Organized by Michelle Christian

c) Panel II: "20 Years of the WTO: The Political-Economic Consequences of Trade and Investment." Organized by Matthew Mahutga

d) Panel III: “Human Rights and the Political Economy of the World System.” Organized by Jackie Smith

e) Panel IV: “Open Topic on Political Economy of the World System.” Organized by Johanna Bockman

I wish everyone a productive ending to their research and teaching this spring and seeing many of you in Seattle!!

Paul Almeida
PEWS Chair

40th Annual PEWS Conference

Global Commodity Chains, Social Inequalities and Social Movements; The Past and Present of World-Systems Research at University of Maryland.



Keynote Address: Immanuel Wallerstein, Yale University



**Immanuel and
Beatrice**



**Patricio Korzeniewicz,
University of Maryland
“Our fearless host”**



Panel on “Scope and Method” (from left to right): David Baronov (St. John Fisher College), Ramón Grosfoguel (UC Berkeley), Eric Mielants (Fairfield U.), Tom Hall (DePauw U.)



Panel on “Environment” (from left to right): Paul Ciccantell (Western Michigan University), Paul Gellert (University of Tennessee), Christina Prell (University of Maryland), Jason Moore (Binghamton University)



Panel on “Social Movements” (from left to right): Denis O’Hearn (Binghamton University), Andrej Grubacic (California Institute for Integral Studies), Brendan McQuade (DePaul University), Devparna Roy (University of Puget Sound), Robert Schaeffer (Cal Poly)

Conference Pictures from...

Chaos and Governance in the 21st Century: Prospects and Challenges to Peace and Justice in the Age of US Hegemonic Decline” at Florida Atlantic University.



Keynote Address: Beverly Silver, Johns Hopkins University



Siba Grovogui, Cornell University



Presenter: Mindi Schneider, Erasmus University

Panel (from left to right), Sefika Kumral, Mindi Schneider, Kristen Hopewell, Phillip Hough, Savas Karatasi



Manuela Boatca, Free University of Berlin



Phillip Hough, Florida Atlantic University

2016 PEWS ASA Mentoring Program

PEWS Council and Mentoring Committee invite you to participate in the third annual PEWS Mentoring Program at the 2016 ASA meeting in Seattle. PEWS Council discussed and unanimously approved this program at our 2015 meeting, and if you are a member of other ASA sections, you may know that several of them have instituted similar mentoring programs as well. It is our hope that the PEWS mentoring program will help to accomplish many of our section's goals such as boosting membership, building a community of PEWS researchers, and cultivating new scholars in the field.

At this year's meeting, we will be matching graduate students, junior faculty, and senior faculty based on their shared research and professional interests. Participants will arrange to meet during the ASA meeting in order to get to know one another, discuss questions or concerns about academic life, and gain a mentor outside of their home institutions. All PEWS Section members are welcome and encouraged to participate!

*Graduate students and faculty members interested in participating in the mentoring program should email PEWS graduate student representative Jennifer Rainer, jrainer@masonlive.gmu.edu by **July 15, 2016**. Space may be limited, but we will do our best to include everyone who sends us their information by the deadline.*

Recent Publications

Books

Downey, Liam. 2015. *Inequality, Democracy, and the Environment*. New York University Press.

Inequality, Democracy, and the Environment sheds light on the structural causes of these and other social and environmental crises, highlighting in particular the key role that elite-controlled organizations, institutions, and networks play in creating these crises. Downey focuses on four topics—globalization, agriculture, mining, and U.S. energy and military policy—to show how organizational and institutional inequality and elite-controlled organizational networks produce environmental degradation and social harm. He focuses on key institutions like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the U.S. Military and the World Trade Organization to show how specific policies are conceived and enacted in order to further elite goals. Ultimately, Downey lays out a path for environmental social scientists and environmentalists to better understand and help solve the world's myriad social and environmental crises.

Dyball, Robert and Barry Newell. 2016. *Understanding Human Ecology: A Systems Approach to Sustainability*. Earthscan/Routledge.

This textbook, which has been road-tested and refined through over a decade of teaching and workshops, offers a coherent conceptual framework for Human Ecology – a clear approach for understanding the many systems we are part of and how we frame and understand the problems we face. By giving rigorous definitions it guides readers out of the current 'conceptual swamp' that hinders communication and collaboration – with a particular focus on terms such as "sustainability" and "cultural adaptation", that need generally agreed definitions before they can support clear communication. It also clarifies the role of Human Ecology, and similar disciplines, by bringing ethical and justice considerations into the assessment of different interventions to promote sustainability.

Lin, Syaru Shirley. 2016. Taiwan's China Dilemma: Contested Identities and Multiple Interests in Taiwan's Cross-Strait Economic Policy. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

As Taiwan has become increasingly dependent on mainland China economically,

its policies toward China have fluctuated between liberalization and restriction. This study uses a framework that links national identity and economic interest to explain the ongoing debate over Taiwan's cross-Strait economic policy and the oscillations this debate has produced in four episodes during the presidencies of Lee Teng-hui, Chen Shui-bian, and Ma Ying-jeou. The debate has revolved around competing opinion clusters, described here as Extensive Restriction, Moderate Liberalization, Moderate Liberalization, and Extensive Liberalization. In the first two episodes, Taiwanese had not yet agreed on their national identity and the discussion was highly politicized, with Extensive Restrictionists and Extensive Liberalizers being most appealing. In the latter two, however, there was an increasing convergence on a definition of national identity, rooted in Taiwan's distinctive values and institutions, rather than in ethnicity. Support for extreme policies dropped considerably, and the two moderate clusters became dominant. This consolidated national identity enabled a larger number of Taiwanese to dissociate economic policies from their future political preferences and definitions of national identity, and to rationally discuss the competing options. However, the debate remained intense, as Taiwanese attempted to balance a number of competing goals, including economic growth, equity, stability, security, and even international recognition and environmental sustainability. How Taiwan's emerging national identity has shaped the evolution of its cross-Strait economic policy has implications for not only the future of cross-Strait relations but also the discipline of international political economy.

Palat, Ravi Arvind. 2015. *The Making of an Indian Ocean World-Economy, 1250-1650: Princes Paddy fields and Bazaars*. New York: Palgrave-Macmillan.

This book draws upon the histories of societies based on wet-rice cultivation, such as India and China, to chart a pattern of social evolution and state formation different from Eurocentric notions. Professor Palat argues that production conditions in wet-rice agriculture did not favor large farms and that the absence of a political relationship between capitalists and rulers led to the absence of monopolies which generated the surplus that facilitated capitalism. The density of commercial linkages within the Indian Ocean world-system led to commercialism without capitalism and the large population that could be supported by rice cultivation promoted an 'industrious revolution' in which skill and manual dexterity had a decisive advantage over machines.

Rabie, Mohamed. 2016. *A Theory of Sustainable Sociocultural and Economic Development*" by Palgrave Macmillan.

The book provides a clear understanding of the causes of underdevelopment and a fresh approach to dealing with such causes in a comprehensive manner. By so doing, it bridges the gap between the two major schools of thought in development studies; the classical one that sees development as a process driven by the market forces, which assumes that economy is a separate aspect of societal life; and the cultural school that sees culture a value system that governs people's attitudes and ways of thinking that hardly changes, making it an obstacle to development. In contrast, this book sees development as a comprehensive societal process that has two major components; economic restructuring and sociocultural transformation. Consequently, it builds a model to transform the sociocultural aspect of life as it integrates it with the economic aspect. Furthermore, the book explains the issue of sustainability and articulates a plan to achieve sustainable global development.

Development is like a beautiful bird; to fly, it has to have two healthy wings, with one wing, a bird may be able to hop and jump but it cannot fly; and so is development, to succeed it should include two programs; one to restructure the economy; the other to transform the sociocultural landscape of society.

Rothstein, Jeffrey. 2016. *When Good Jobs Go Bad: Globalization, De-unionization, and Declining Job Quality in the North American Auto Industry*. Rutgers University Press.

When Good Jobs Go Bad exposes the deleterious impact globalization has had on job quality in the North American auto industry. Focusing on three General Motors plants assembling SUVs—an older plant in Janesville, Wisconsin; a newer and more viable plant in Arlington, Texas; and a “greenfield site” (a brand-new, state-of-the-art facility) in Silao, Mexico—*When Good Jobs Go Bad* shows how globalization has resulted in lower compensation and the intensification of standardized work in the U.S. and Mexico alike. Rothstein's comparative analysis, which incorporates the viewpoints of workers, union officials, and management in both countries, sheds new light on labor's loss of bargaining power in recent decades, and highlights the negative impact of globalization on blue-collar jobs, both good and bad, from the sweatshop to the automotive assembly line.

Thomas J. Burns and Beth Schaefer Caniglia. *The Ecology of Late Modernity* (Mercury Academic), won Gerald L. Young Book Award from the Society for Human Ecology.

The book's primary focus is on environmental problems associated with modernity. With increases in the size and concentration of populations, economies of scale, advanced technological capabilities, elaborate divisions of labor and widely skewed access to resources and wealth, there also have arisen large

ecological imbalances which, in turn, have manifested in myriad ways. These include air and water pollution, deforestation, global climate change, and rises in environment-based diseases in plant, animal and human life. This leads us to one of the wicked problems of modernity itself: we have the ability now, and perhaps even the propensity, to create problems beyond our ability to address them in sustainable ways. In spite of this frustrating predicament, the book takes a decidedly optimistic approach, examining in detail solutions stemming from major institutions and local communities, as well as individual lifestyle changes that can bring us closer in line with the natural environment. As such, the book goes beyond merely describing environmental problems, to discuss catalysts for change across an array of perspectives and on multiple levels. Because we examine such a diverse set of institutions, the interdisciplinary nature of environmental problems and solutions takes center stage.

Articles

Lapegna, Pablo. 2016. "Genetically Modified Soybeans, Agrochemical Exposure, and Everyday Forms of Peasant Collaboration in Argentina." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 43(2): 517-536.

Lapegna, Pablo. 2016. "Soy production in South America-Globalization and new agroindustrial landscapes."

Kaup, Brent Z. 2015. Reiterated problem solving in neoliberal and counter-neoliberal shifts: the case of Bolivia's hydrocarbon sector. *Theory & Society* 44 (5): 445-470.

Keahey, Jennifer. 2016. "Whose Knowledge Counts? Developing Fair Trade Skills in South Africa." *Globalizations*: 1-16. doi: 10.1080/14747731.2015.1130308.

Marley, Ben. 2016. "From War on Poverty to War on Coal: Nature, Capital, and Work in Appalachia," *Environmental Sociology*, 1-13.

Paret, Marcel. 2015. "Apartheid Policing: Examining the US Migrant Labor System Through a South African Lens." *Citizenship Studies*. 19(3-4):317-334.

Paret, Marcel. 2015. "Precarious Labor Politics: Unions and the Struggles of the Insecure Working Class in the United States and South Africa." *Critical Sociology* 41(4-5): 757-784.

Paret, Marcel. 2015. "Violence and Democracy in South Africa's Community Protests." *Review of African Political Economy* 42(143): 107-123.

Paret, Marcel. 2015. "Failed Redistribution or Failed Administration? Official Union Narratives of Community Protest in South Africa." *Politikon: South African Journal of Political Studies* 42(3): 345-366.

Paret, Marcel. 2015. "COSATU and Community Struggles: Assessing the Prospects for Solidarity," in *COSATU in Crisis: The Fragmentation of an African Trade Union Federation*, edited by Vishwas Satgar and Roger Southall. Sandton: KMM Review.

Conference Announcements:

10th Brazilian Colloquium on Political Economy of World-Systems

Brazil in the capitalist world-economy: past, present and perspectives for the 21st century

In its tenth edition, the Brazilian Colloquium on Political Economy of World-Systems invites scholars to think about the relations between Brazil and the world-economy. This effort could start with the following statement by Aníbal Quijano and Immanuel Wallerstein: "the Americas were no incorporated into an already existing capitalist world-economy. There could not have been a capitalist world-economy without the Americas". In this sense, since the early 1500s, in the space now called Brazil, important changes took place, are taking place and will take place as part of the development of the capitalist world-economy.

Portuguese colonization (through the introduction in Brazil of segments of the global commodity chain of sugar in the 15th century) and the end of the colonial situation (with the arrival of the Portuguese court and the formation of an embryonic national state in 1808) were clearly integral to world processes that eventually penetrated Brazil. Did things change with the formal creation of a national state in 1822? Or wouldn't the peripheral condition of Brazil from 1500 to the 1970s and its semi-peripheral position since then continue to be the reason for the characteristics of the Brazilian state (its evolution, its foreign and domestic policies), for the industrialization in the 20th century, for the controversial deindustrialization in the present time, and even for the current political and economic turbulence of the country? More than that, haven't the very social classes in Brazil been constituted within local segments of global commodity chains (and not within what, from the perspective of methodological nationalism, is called the "national economy")? At the same time, the very extension of global commodity chains to Brazil's "space-time" has changed the dimensions and characteristics of the world economy. This seems to have been the case with sugar production, modern slavery, gold and coffee, to mention only some key examples.

Beyond studies on the several dimensions (political, economic, environmental, scientific and technological, and of international relations) and on the several phases of the development of Brazil within the world-economy, the colloquium will also welcome works that develop or criticize the Political Economy of World-Systems.

3rd International Sociological Association (ISA) Forum (Deadline passed) July 10-14, 2016. Vienna, Austria

Session “Social Movements in Latin America: Contributing to a North-South Dialogue”

Social movements from the Global South are usually investigated by applying theories developed by and for the Global North. But what happens when theories travel across diverse social contexts? Can theories and concepts developed in the Global North fully capture the complexities of social movements and societies that have followed different historical trajectories? For instance, nationalism, “populism,” and socialism, or key institutions like the state or labor unions cannot be assumed to have universal importance and meaning. Conversely, to what degree do theories and practices from the Global South inform social movements and studies developed in the Global North? How do situated cultures and meaning-making practices require a re-elaboration of social movement theories and concepts?

We welcome papers that establish a dialogue between theories and movements from the Global South and the Global North, with a special focus on Latin America. Papers may contribute to this collective enterprise in various ways, for instance, looking at:

- The social and organizational basis of activism and collective identities
- How different cultural and historical contexts require new ways of thinking about contentious repertoires, “frames” and the mobilization of resources
- The links between social movements, governments, and institutional politics (e.g. the relevance of “patronage politics” in Latin America)
- The convergences, influences, and tensions between the Global North and Global South (e.g. the influence of the Bolivian process of social change in the actions and ideas of Podemos in Spain)

Language: English, Spanish

Research Committee: RC47 Social Classes and Social Movements (host committee)

Please submit your abstracts through the conference website, here:

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2016/webprogrampreliminary/Session6563.html>

Make sure you submit your abstract before the deadline of September 30th, 2015

Session Organizers:

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By: the JWSR Editorial Team: Jackie Smith, Jenn Bair, Scott Byrd, and George Weddington

As the editorial board of the Journal for World Systems Research we have made free and open access to our journal a political priority! Not only do we think it is important to help our authors get their work out to as wide an audience as possible, but as world-systems scholars we are particularly committed to preventing the further commercialization and privatization of the knowledge commons. Open access publishing allows readers without access to well-resourced libraries or subscriptions to major scholarly databases to access our journal content without charge.

Producing and sustaining open access journals takes commitment and time, and the lack of subscription revenues means this work must be largely volunteer. JWSR receives limited support from PEWS member dues and from the host institution where our editorial office is based, but most of the work is accomplished by volunteer hours from the editors, reviewers, and contributors. We'd

like to ensure that our journal can be sustained over the long-term, regardless of whether or not we can maintain the current levels of support we've received from host institutions. Moreover, we want to expand the journal's reach, and this will require additional resources we currently lack.

We are calling on PEWS members who share our view of the critical importance of open access publishing to help us maintain the high quality of JWSR and to expand its impact by volunteering. In particular, we need help with copy-editing articles prior to publication. Because we seek to publish the work of scholars from around the world, we need assistance in this critical task of helping authors whose first language is not English to effectively communicate their research. In addition, we are seeking volunteer translators to help us translate article abstracts into Spanish, French, and possibly Portuguese. By offering abstracts in multiple languages we can significantly expand our journal's reach.

The editorial team has been thinking of ways to increase both the number and diversity of our readership for JWSR. We realize that as an open access journal, we are already accessible to many readers who are interested in research in world-systems theory and political economy. However,

in limiting our publishing to English, we are also limiting potential readership, and manuscript submissions. We hope to begin offering abstract translations in the next issue, and this is only possible if we get support from PEWS members.

If you are able to volunteer for either of these tasks, please send a message to us at jwsr@pitt.edu listing your interests/skills (including topics of expertise for copy-editors).

Thank you for all those that contributed to this issue. Look for the Fall Issue of PEWS NEWS in November 2016!

**Ben Marley
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