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PEWS NEWS

Newsletter of the ASA's Political Economy of the World-System Section

Fall 2024

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PEWS NEWS Feature #1:

Questions & Answers with the 2023 ASA PEWS section award winners!

Questions & Answers with:

Dr. Jiaqi Liu

Assistant Professor of Sociology at Singapore Management University

Regarding: The 2023 PEWS Terence K. Hopkins Graduate Student Paper Award:

For the article: 2022. "[When Diaspora Politics Meet Global Ambitions: Diaspora Institutions Amid China's Geopolitical Transformations.](#)" *International Migration Review*, 56(4): 1255-1279.

Q #1: What is one thing that surprised you while conducting research for this project? (were there data or findings that went against your assumptions or expectations?)

This article examines how China's changing geopolitical strategies have reshaped its diaspora politics. When I began working on this project in 2019, I was curious about China's increasing emphasis on Chinese diasporas as political assets to achieve its geopolitical aspirations. However, upon entering the field and interviewing grassroots migration bureaucrats in China, I discovered a discrepancy between the official rhetoric and the actual priorities of these officials. They appeared to only pay lip service to the central government's geopolitical grand plans while still paying most attention to the economic contributions of diasporas, such as foreign investments and remittances. I also observed substantial fragmentation among different diaspora bureaucracies, as street-level prioritized their mundane bureaucratic interests and career advancements.

This dual nature of fragmentation within Chinese bureaucracies, both horizontally and vertically, challenges the prevalent portrayal in Western media and political discourse, which often depicts the Chinese party-state as a monolithic political juggernaut. While existing studies have examined China's fragmented authoritarianism in areas such as energy policies, healthcare, and land management, diaspora affairs have been largely neglected. Given China's position as the world's fourth largest emigration state, there is a pressing need for more grounded insights into the actual workings of China's diaspora bureaucracies.

Based on these unexpected discoveries, I shifted my focus away from top-level policies and towards grassroots conflicts in the implementation of China's diaspora policies. I became more interested in the everyday struggles and motivations of grassroots actors, including street-level officials and ordinary emigrants, as they interpretate, leverage, and manipulate China's increasingly assertive diaspora policy.

My emphasis on grassroots mechanisms has also led me to adopt a more grounded approach to world-systems theory, investigating how China's global ambitions impact the day-to-day lives and careers of sociopolitical actors in both origin and host societies.

Q #2: Based on this research, are there any areas of theoretical, conceptual, or topical inquiry that you think PEWS members might benefit from entering a scholarly dialogue with?

My research seeks to foster a scholarly dialogue between world-systems theory and migration studies. Conventional world-systems analysis is preoccupied with worldwide institutions and mechanisms, such as states, multinational corporations, imperialism, and geocultures. While these large-scale formal entities hold significant sway over the world system, less established institutions and even individual actors can also play pivotal roles in shaping relations between the core, semi-periphery, and the periphery.

In my research, I focus on how Chinese migrants and diaspora associations facilitate, leverage, or distort their homeland state's geopolitical ascendance and global dominance. I show that as China transitions from the semi-periphery to the core of the world-system over the past four decades, it has increasingly employed Chinese diasporas as proxies for its geopolitical ascent. The Communist Party of China (CPC) designates Chinese diaspora elites as "grassroots ambassadors" to advance China's national interests in migrant-hosting countries. Through their locally registered diaspora associations, Chinese diaspora elites act as intermediaries between their homeland government and Chinese migrant communities overseas, carrying out covert activities to enhance Chinese soft power and repress anti-CPC dissidents abroad. Yet, Chinese migrants are not powerless or passive followers of China's geopolitical strategies. Rather, they tap into China's rising global influence to overcome the collective trauma of China's "century of humiliation" and combat racial discrimination and Sinophobic marginalization in Western societies. As their origin and host countries vie for world hegemony, Chinese migrants carve out their transborder belonging by navigating the escalating tensions between China and the West.

By foregrounding the roles played by migrants and diaspora associations in geopolitics, my research aims to elevate these previously understudied groups in the world-systems scholarship. I highlight that migrants often harness core-periphery relations for their wellbeing and aspirations in the interstitial space across nation-states. My research underscores the need for increased attention to migrants in world-systems analysis.

Q# 3: Do you have any other current research that you'd like to let PEWS members know about?

I'm currently working on my book project "The Homeland's Long Arm: Diaspora Politics and the Limits of Global China." My book project builds on this PEWS award-winning article to examine

the dynamic interactions between the Chinese national government, local bureaucrats, diaspora elites, and rank-and-file migrants in the contexts of the rise of China and Sino-West tensions.

I will take an early sabbatical in AY2024-25 to conduct a postdoctoral fellowship at Princeton University's Center of Contemporary China. During my time at Princeton, I will focus on writing this book. In addition to this book project, I'm also working on several articles exploring China's digital authoritarianism, refugee policies, exit liberalization, and its integration of immigration and emigration bureaucracies.

Questions & Answers With:

Dr. Grégoire Mallard and Dr. Jin Sun:

Dr. Mallard (Professor of Anthropology and Sociology, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva) & Dr. Sun (Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology in the Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Regarding: The 2023 PEWS Distinguished Article Award

For the article: (2022) "[Viral Governance: How the US Unilateral Sanctions Against Iran Changed the Rules of Financial Capitalism](#)." *American Journal of Sociology*, 128(1): 144–188.

Q #1: What is one thing that surprised you while conducting research for this project? (were there data or findings that went against your assumptions or expectations?)

Embarking on this research project brought about numerous unexpected surprises. We initiated the study in the summer of 2017, precisely a year following the implementation (on 16 January 2016) of the JCPOA, commonly known as the “Iran nuclear deal.” The ambiance at that time differed significantly from the present. The JCPOA stood as a diplomatic milestone, preventing a potential war, dismantling Iran's nuclear material stockpile, reopening its nuclear facilities to international inspections, and safeguarding the European collective security through a political and diplomatic approach, devoid of resorting to force. Crucially, all major powers, including the Permanent Five members of the UN Security Council (P5) and the European Union (EU), collaborated towards the common goal of preserving global peace. Consequently, within that context, our initial plan was to delve into the mechanisms of global lawmaking in the transnational legal orders of sanctions, reflecting on how we could resolve challenging nuclear disputes successfully.

However, the dynamics quickly shifted when Trump led the US government to withdraw from the JCPOA on May 8, 2018. Subsequently, the US reinstated unilateral sanctions on Iran, breaching JCPOA commitments and obligations. In the same year, the US initiated trade wars with China, persisting until January 2020, when the two sides reached a tense Phase One agreement. Unfortunately, this agreement faced setbacks as the US accused China of the Covid-19 pandemic, leading to a halt in China fulfilling its obligations. Additionally, on December 6, 2018, Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou was arrested in Canada at the US's request, where she spent three years of detainment—and she wasn't the first non-US corporate official to face charges in the US that were settled in a broader deal.

As of now, the US maintains unlawful tariffs on China in violation of the WTO rules, reaching as high as 25%, indicating that the US-China trade wars persist without a ceasefire agreement; similarly, the future of the WTO's Appellate body, which helped “constitutionalize” the global trade order, is still up in the air, after its operations were disrupted when the US government blocked the nomination of its members.

In essence, when we started this project in 2017, we were largely unaware of the unfolding events documented in the article. By the time the article was published in the summer of 2022,

the world order had undergone a profound transformation. The P5 now find it difficult to collaborate on a shared objective of world peace, a common international security architecture and multilateral global trade rules.

Q #2: Based on this research, are there any areas of theoretical, conceptual, or topical inquiry that you think PEWS members might benefit from entering a scholarly dialogue with?

The article delves into the metamorphosis of global governance in the world system, examining the impact of unilateral U.S. sanctions and global financial capitalism. It offers avenues for theoretical, conceptual, and topical exploration within the domain of Political Economy of World Systems (PEWS) that can spark scholarly discourse. First, the article illuminates how global governance has shifted from targeting sovereign entities to corporate ones and from multilateral financial institutions to U.S. domestic institutions. PEWS members who have a specific interest in “neoliberalism,” the Washington Consensus, and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) could probe into how this change in governance strategies has resulted in the emerging “New York Consensus”; how it has shifted the overall structure and functioning of neoliberal order, in particular, the place of IFIs and the “conditionalities” they impose to debtor states in the bigger financial system.

Second, the article speaks specifically to the interests of PEWS members who draw on Immanuel Wallerstein's theory of world systems. Indeed, examining how U.S. sanctions reshaped global rules and triggered deglobalization resonates with Wallerstein's ideas about the world system's evolution in the neoliberal and what some call the “post-neoliberal” eras: in particular, the belief that hegemonic and non-hegemonic times alternate, and that imperial overreach may lead to the return of multipolarity. In a sense, this article was written at a time which we can consider as the apex of US hegemony, exactly when the US and EU+2 (UK and Switzerland) sanctions against Russia started to multiply. Today, one year later, the fact that India, China, and the BRICS+ have decided to keep their distance from the reordering of trade and financial rules operated by the US-EU+2 sanctions shows that the world system may have shifted from a hegemonic to a non-hegemonic era.

This is a preliminary conclusion of our article, which insists on the coming deglobalization, or, as we call it now, the “segmented globalization” that is emerging due to the overstretch of sanctions.

Third, by contrasting the “viral governance” which is perpetuating crises with “multilateral governance” which aims at resolving them, the article prompts critical policy discussions about the kind of global governance that is capable of addressing global challenges. PEWS members who have an interest in participating in policy discussions about the reform of global governance might explore how different global governance approaches affect the resolution or perpetuation of economic, political, and social crises within the world system.

In essence, this article thus forms a fertile ground for PEWS members to engage in scholarly and policy discussions. It provides insights into the evolving dynamics of global governance, the interplay of power within the world system, and the implications for managing global crises.

Q# 3: Do you have any other current research that you'd like to let PEWS members know about?

We recently completed a new article together to continue the research. The article is titled "Post-Petrodollar Shifts and the Advent of Segmented Globalization: Towards a Socio-Historical Theory of Transnational Financial Orders". In it, we argue that since the Age of Exploration, the trajectory of globalization, successively orchestrated by the Spanish, British, and American empires, has been intricately woven into a world-system via trade openness and international currency circulation organized around specific transnational capitalist orderings. Our article argues that Global North sanctions on Russia disrupted the established "petrodollar" circulation, which was erected in the 1970s when oil benefits made out of the oil trade by newly independent states that had nationalized oil companies were recycled in US stocks and securities. The new sanctions against Russia have catapulted China into a prominent role in de-dollarizing the Global South, and opening a new transnational ordering beyond the petrodollar world system.

Post-petrodollar shifts align with what we call "segmented globalization," when the Global South sidesteps hegemonic processes of governance in international capital hubs in the North, although the latter continue to operate as if the rest of the world hasn't completely changed. So this article does not argue that the neoliberal order is over, but that it may no longer be based on the petrodollar system. This is why we call "segmented globalization" the emerging new order that has yet to fully take shape.

So in this article, we propose a new concept of "transnational financial orders" (TFO), that can help sociologists of the world system make sense of three key processes in the historical reordering of the world economy: 1) international currency circulation, 2) financial embeddedness via transnational politically embedded bankers, and 3) transnational capitalist ordering. We believe that such a perspective revitalizes and expands the sociological theory of financialization and world systems to account for the multi-scalar nature of the current shifts, allowing scholars to understand how post-petrodollar economies have resulted in segmented globalization. Together with this article, the (very long) article published we published in the AJS in 2022, and a few other unpublished chapters, we hope to finish a monograph in 2025 that will give a comprehensive study of the role of sanctions in reordering the world system.

Questions & Answers with:

Phillip A. Hough

Associate Professor of Sociology at Florida Atlantic University

Regarding his award of: The 2023 PEWS Wallerstein Memorial Book Award:

For the book: [*At the Margins of the Global Market: Making Workers, Commodities, and Crisis in Rural Colombia*](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2022)

Q #1: What is one thing that surprised you while conducting research for this project? (were there data or findings that went against your assumptions or expectations?)

The most surprising thing about this project was how long it took to complete. It started out as a doctoral thesis project under the supervision of Beverly Silver and Giovanni Arrighi. After graduating from Johns Hopkins Sociology in 2007, I got a job at Florida Atlantic University and spend the next few years or so publishing articles from the wealth of data I collected for my thesis. I went back to Colombia a few times to collect more data on the labor and development dynamics while also reading a ton of scholarly work that really opened my eyes to the complexity I was seeing on the ground. It took about a decade of reading works in the fields of Marxist Feminism, Primitive Accumulation and Dispossession Studies, and Agrarian Political Economy, and State Formation before I felt comfortable enough to come back to the project in its entirety. So basically, I had been working on this for about two decades. Only with the completion of a first draft in 2021-2022 did I feel confident enough to make and substantiate the array of empirical and conceptual claims that formed the basis of this book.

Q #2: Based on this research, are there any areas of theoretical, conceptual, or topical inquiry that you think PEWS members might benefit from entering a scholarly dialogue with?

At the Margins of the Global Market formally seeks to understand how and why the labor regime dynamics of Colombia's coffee, bananas, and cattle-coca regions varied over time and space. For example, why did coffee, bananas, and cattle production develop into vastly different regimes in the mid-20th century, with "hegemony" arising in coffee and "despotism" in bananas and cattle? Why did these regimes converge towards deep, albeit distinct, "crises of labor control" by the close of the century? And why have we seen growing variation emerge once again in the 21st century? To answer these questions, I drew from the standard labor regimes intellectual toolkit – qualitative analysis of labor processes, social reproduction strategies, class conflict, and the state and capitalist institutions that developed out of these conflicts. However, I also went beyond the labor regimes framework by situating these labor regimes within a world historical perspective. Spatially, I analyzed how labor dynamics were shaped by, and indeed shaped, core-periphery struggles, and commodity chain dynamics associated with each global market. Temporally, I situated these labor regime and global market dynamics across the arc of U.S. world hegemony.

The most recognizable contribution of my book, I think, addresses how labor regimes scholars can develop a more nuanced and rigorous understanding of local dynamics when situating them world historically as I did. I think the less obvious but perhaps more critical takeaway of my book comes from what it tells us about historical capitalism and the prospects and obstacles to "labor-friendly" forms of development in the 21st century. From the vantage point of rural

Colombia, we gain a different understanding of the viability and invincibility of historical capitalism. Labor regimes, capitalist markets, and systems of commodity production are precarious social and institutional achievements that are prone to crises. They breakdown. They require violence and repression. They give way to alternative social formations and variegated and non-proletarianized economic livelihoods. As we move deeper into the 21st century and further away from the market institutions established under U.S. world hegemony, we can expect capitalist forms of development to look more like those that have arisen in Colombia and less like the Euro and Americo-centric examples that continue to pervade the labor regimes perspective.

I would encourage scholars who are interested in these dynamics to pay particular attention to the varied nature of livelihood strategies and class struggles that arise at the margins of the global capitalist market. What might development or social welfare look like when growing swaths of the world population have been cut off from the land, but they have not quite been reabsorbed into capitalist systems of commodity production? This question of the social reproduction and class politics of “surplus populations” is, I believe, a central issue of the 21st century. With some notable exceptions, sociologists have not been taking this issue as seriously as their colleagues in anthropology, where an emerging “political economy of distribution” is generating some interesting insights on the matter. Connecting these anthropological insights to the world historical sociology and world-systems analysis can, I think, push our understanding much further.

Q# 3: Do you have any other current research that you’d like to let PEWS members know about?

After completing *At the Margins*, I obtained a U.S. Global Fulbright Award that has been funding the research for my next book, tentatively titled: *Post-Neoliberal Possibilities: Production, Livelihoods, and Development across the Global Coffee Belt*. This project seeks to understand the diverse livelihood strategies and eco-politics of coffee-producing farmers living across the “global coffee belt” regions of Colombia, Kenya, and Vietnam. The global coffee market was politically regulated under a series of International Coffee Agreements (ICA) during the Second World War and during the decades of the Cold War. The liberalization of the market following the abrogation of the ICA system in 1989 essentially deregulated the market overnight, ushering in a period of radical restructuring and systemic crisis in coffee prices and farmer incomes that has destabilized livelihoods across the coffee regions of the world. Over the past two decades, the global coffee market has segmented sharply, with higher quality “Second Wave” coffees (organics, specialty varieties, and ethically certified) and “Third Wave” coffees (single origin, terroir) promising a way out of the crisis to those farmers who can source to the relatively small but lucrative high-end market. Indeed, a new “developmentalist illusion” has arisen as policymakers and development agents are engaging in systematic efforts to revamp government coffee institutions and imbue coffee farmers with a new entrepreneurial orientation to enhance the quality of their harvests.

My new project aims to understand this emergent 21st century coffee developmentalism, particularly in light of world-systemic constraints and global climatic conditions that have deepened the economic precarity of coffee production as a livelihood strategy. I spent the summer of 2022 conducting fieldwork in Colombia’s central coffee axis region of Caldas. This past summer 2023, I conducted similar fieldwork in the central coffee highland regions outside of Nairobi, Kenya. I plan to do my last bout of fieldwork in the central highlands of Vietnam this

coming summer 2024. I am excited to do this type of comparative world-regional study and to see what comes of it .

Congratulations to all the PEWS award winners!

PEWS NEWS Feature #2: Commentary by Kathy Wallerstein

On September 11-12, 2023, scholars from around the world gathered in Paris, France, to participate in a conference titled: *Capitalism, anticapitalism and social sciences engaged on a global scale: around the works of Immanuel Wallerstein*. In this feature piece for PEWS-News, we are happy to feature the commentary of Katherine Wallerstein, as she reflects on the successes of this gathering. Her commentary begins, below:

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On September 11th and 12th, 2023, a two-day colloquium celebrating the life and work of Immanuel Wallerstein was held at the Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme (FMSH) in Paris. Delayed several times because of the pandemic, *Capitalisme, anticapitalisme et sciences sociales engagées à l'échelle globale : autour de l'œuvre d'Immanuel Wallerstein (Capitalism, Anti-Capitalism and Social Sciences Engaged on a Global Scale: Around the Work of Immanuel Wallerstein)* was the first major international conference to honor his legacy. Along with the Fernand Braudel Center for the Study of Economies, Historical Systems, and Civilizations at Binghamton University, the FMSH was an anchor in Immanuel's life and work.

For 43 years he spent several months a year there, and occasionally the whole year. Created by Fernand Braudel in 1963 as a hub for social science and humanities researchers, with Immanuel's presence from 1975 on, and through his close collaborative work with Braudel, the FMSH became home to a global network of thinkers and the site of important cross-disciplinary and intercultural dialogues. It was natural that we should organize the conference there. I quote the text we included in the program: "From his meeting with Fernand Braudel in the early 1970s to his definitive departure at the beginning of 2018, Immanuel Wallerstein chose Paris and the MSH Foundation (which hosted him for several months each year) as the European hub of an ambitious project of considering all the major issues facing contemporary society on a global scale, placing them within their context and their dynamics spanning half a millennium of history. This overall project was developed in successive stages, dealing in turn with the economy and history of these five centuries, with politics and social movements, and with the epistemology of the social and human sciences, all while looking to the future. At each of these stages, he mobilized impressive networks of researchers from all over the world."

Due to high enrollment numbers we were forced to relinquish the conference room that we had reserved for the event and move to the more spacious ground floor of the FMSH. Open and accessible, with passers by able to pause and listen, visible from the street through the building's glass walls, one had the feeling of an agora which suited the spirit of the gathering perfectly. Immanuel would have been pleased. A team of tech workers made sure that the conference was flawlessly streamed, with a handful of panelists and a large number of audience participants joining virtually.

The central organizing committee, consisting of Maurice Aymard, Katharine Wallerstein, Etienne Balibar, Yves David Hugot, and Stephane Dufoix, decided on a roundtable format covering the major themes in his work. While this would necessarily be an incomplete project, the five panels nonetheless covered a great deal of ground, with two panels the first day, and three the following. Following a welcome by Antonin Cohen, president of the FMSH, Katharine Wallerstein, and

Maurice Aymard, historian and former director of the FMSH on the morning of the 11th, the sessions continued for two full days punctuated by coffee breaks, lunch, and a reception. Each session was followed by a lively conversation with questions and comments from the online and in-person audience, many of which were picked up by subsequent panels, and even more of which continued over food and drink, as well as over email with those not physically present.

The organizers made several other decisions that made this conference somewhat unusual.

First, the panelists were invited to present in French or English. Because simultaneous translation was not available this meant that a small handful of people were unfortunately not able to grasp everything. However, most were able to understand both languages well enough, with the result being that a great many people were able to participate who could not have if they had been required to speak French. Secondly, the speakers spanned a number of disciplines and generations, and ranged from colleagues and interlocutors of Immanuel's to scholars and activists in disparate fields and disciplinary orientations who together gave a glimpse into the enormous reach of Immanuel's influence. Indeed, the feeling was one of circles rippling ever wider, of continuity, and, especially, of community. There was at the same time a feeling of enormous loss, the loss of this extraordinary person and thinker whose absence has left a dark hole in our world, and for those who knew him personally, in our hearts. More still, there was the feeling of a world that has ended, one in which such an intellectual as him could flourish. But loss, and struggles, provide the grounds for a shared humanity and the creation of new affinities.

The numerous comments that came to the organizers after the conference buoyed our sense that *we had created a needed space for remembering, grieving, and forging forward*. One person wrote: "Thank you for this amazing gathering, which becomes more and more so when I rerun in memory various sessions and papers. ...[Y]ou have created an occasion for all to interpret the legacy of Immanuel from so many different viewpoints, looking back and forward, for science and activism, for women and men, for the old-timers and the young." "I felt Immanuel's spirit today and yesterday," another wrote. "Listen to each other, discuss, analyze, think about your values, widen your circles to all thinkers and doers. 'Be bold, be bolder, and be bolder still!' So many memories. Thank you for organizing this extraordinarily moving and meaningful colloquium." And then, quite simply: "What a great pleasure and honor for everyone!"

For me, it was a deeply moving two days, and Immanuel's presence was everywhere. A magnificent affirmation of ongoing critical and revolutionary thought and commitment to struggles, however difficult, it was a reminder that, if he is gone, we are here. We stand on the shoulders of giants, and he was one.

In my introduction I addressed the fact that our colloquium was, by chance, opening on September 11, 2023, a day that marks two terrible anniversaries. It marked the 50th anniversary of the US-backed coup d'état in Chile and the beginning of Pinochet's brutal regime, and it marked 22 years since the World Trade Center in New York was brought down by Al Qaeda planes. I noted that, in many ways, it was an appropriate day to gather in memory of Immanuel, a man whose scholarship and thought have provided us with tools to make sense of our world's current historical and geopolitical circumstances, so that we can change it.

For him, research and action in the world were never separate, as beautifully and simply stated by him in this quote:

“My intellectual biography is one long quest for an adequate explanation of contemporary reality, so that I and others might act upon it. The quest was both intellectual and political, and I have always felt it could not be one without being at the same time the other – for me or for anyone.”

The conference was organized as follows:

Roundtable 1: Overview of the Work of Immanuel Wallerstein was moderated by Thierry Paquot, Professor Emeritus, philosopher and essayist, and former editor at La Découverte. Panelist Yves David Hugot gave a talk entitled *“An anti-imperialist in search of theory: from a modernization paradigm to world-systems analysis”*; Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch spoke of *“Immanuel's work at Binghamton University as I knew it from 1981 to 2005”*; Maurice Aymard discussed *“The Historian and the Sociologist: Braudel and Wallerstein”*; Carlos Aguirre Rojas joined by zoom to give his talk *“Impacts and presence of the work of Immanuel Wallerstein in Latin America”*; Gregory P. Williams joined by zoom with *“Utopistics in an Age of Uncertainty”*; and Elaine Mokhtefi, 94, flew from New York to Paris to share details of her time with Immanuel in the World Assembly of Youth and the World Federalist Movement in which he was a student leader in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Roundtable 2: Global left and anti-systemic movements was moderated by Gustave Massiah, engineer and economist, former vice president of ATTAC, and member of the International Council of the World Social Forum. The panel opened with Havin Gunesser, whose talk was titled *“Democratic Civilization - Öcalan and the impact of world-systems analysis in the Middle East”*; Françoise Vergès followed with *“Post-capitalism will be Feminist and Anti-racist”*; Manuela Bojadzjev went next with *“The Left and the Question of Migration”*; Gilbert Achcar joined by zoom with *“What Does it Mean to be a Leftist Today? Reflections on the Anti-system”*; and David Palumbo-Liu, also by zoom, delivered a talk called *“Systems and Commons.”*

Roundtable 3: Epistemology/ Social Sciences/ Historical Marxism was moderated by Jean Copans, anthropologist, sociologist, and Africanist. Stéphane Dufoix opened the session with *“A decolonial Wallerstein? Hypothesis on the Constitution of the Modernity/Decoloniality Collective”*; Gennaro Ascione followed with *“Unthinking the Endless Accumulation of Capital: Marx's Mathematical Manuscripts and the Spacetimes of Capitalist World-Economy”*; Veronica Gago went next with a powerful *“World-Economy and Interdependence: Rethinking Feminist Internationalism”*; and Yann Moulier Boutang ended the session, joining by zoom, with *“Economic World System: Thinking Liberation Beyond Domination.”*

Roundtable 4: Capitalism / Post-capitalism / Global Economy was moderated by Marta Petrusiewicz, Professor Emeritus of Modern European History at the City University of New York and Università della Calabria. Beverly Silver opened the session with *“From ‘Common Premises’ to ‘Friendly Debates’: Revisiting the (World-Systems) ‘Gang of Four’ on the Dynamics of Global Crisis”*; Jacques Bidet followed with *“Immanuel Wallerstein and the World Order in Modern Times”*; Georgi Derlugian went next with *“Is This a World War Yet? Wallerstein, Huntington, and Other Grim Prophecies Revisited”*; François Gipouloux, joining by zoom, spoke of *“The Impossible*

Advent of a Chinese Capitalism"; and Manuela Boatcă concluded with "*Occidentalism as Geoculture of the Modern/Colonial World-System*."


Roundtable 5: Present-day challenges: Human Resources and Ecological Resources was moderated by Judith Butler, philosopher and Distinguished Professor of Critical Theory and Comparative Literature at University of California, Berkeley. Étienne Balibar began with "*Biopolitics, Geopolitics, Cosmopolitics*"; Catherine Wihtol de Wenden followed with "*The Structural Factors of International Migrants in the 21st Century: South-North, North-North, South-South, North-South*"; Robert Boyer was next with "*Transformations in Contemporary Capitalisms: Combining World Economic Systems with Regulatory Approaches*"; Marie-Claire Caloz-Tschopp followed with "*The World-System Haunted by Marx and the Disappeared: Rereading Wallestein, Anti-nihilist, from Three Notions: Apartheid (Laurent Monnier), The Multiplication of Work, of Capital, of War (Mezzadra&Neilson), Acosmia (Arendt)*". Ruth Wilson Gilmore, joining by zoom, had the honor of concluding the session and the conference with "*Unthinking Racial Capitalism, Unthinking Despair*."

The full program with speaker and moderator biographies can be downloaded here: <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.fmsh.fr/sites/default/files/media/files/Programme%20Wallerstein.pdf>.

The conference sessions can all be listened to as podcasts here: <https://www.canal-u.tv/chaines/fmsh/nos-grands-evenements/capitalisme-anticapitalisme-et-sciences-sociales-engagees-a-l-intervenants>.

Conference proceedings will be published online by the Éditions de la Maison des sciences de l'homme. We will send an announcement when it is ready to share.

PEWS Related Announcements:

 **Announcement #1:** Alessandro Morosin announces the following:


Last summer, I joined this one-week Participatory Action Research Summer Camp workshop in Austria. Though the application period for 2024 may have just closed, PEWS members may want to look out for this in the future! <https://suttneruni.at/de/startseite/aktuelles/news/action-research-summer-camp-popular-retreat-attracting-guests-all-over-world>

Sign this Open Letter to the European Commission: Against the “Critical Raw Material Act”

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kHVbaB6xEt-f5nNXAJjVSWAucFQSO8v2EtqkYZsU9WA/edit>

[CFP: Symposium on American Empire, Extraction, and Environment](#) (University of Chicago, April 2024)

[From Resilience to Resistance: An Almost New Journal for Environmental Humanities](#) (Edited by David Pellow and others)

 **Announcement #2:** Danial Vahabli wishes to announce the following Call for Papers:

Call for Proposals: *Movement and Stillness*

The Stony Brook Sociology Graduate Student Forum would like to invite proposal submissions for our spring graduate student colloquia, surrounding the theme: “Movement and Stillness: Navigating the Currents of Bodies, Ideas, and Spaces”. Graduate students from different disciplines working on movements and stillness are welcome to submit a proposal to present at this conference on April 5th, 2024.

Diverse dynamics define our social landscapes. Movement and stillness in bodily expression, intellectual ideology, and spatial configuration intricately influence our daily experiences. The ebb and flow of cultural expressions, technological advances, and ecological balance play pivotal roles in shaping our world. This event aims to unravel the multifaceted aspects of movement and stillness across various domains. We invite contributions that delve into the interplay between physical motions, evolving ideas, and changing spaces, fostering a nuanced exploration of these interconnected themes. Submissions are encouraged to encompass historical, contemporary, and futuristic perspectives, exploring real-world cases and hypothetical scenarios alike.

We would like to hear from graduate students who work on topics such as:

- State legitimacy and governance
- Gender, feminism, and queer critiques
- Movements in race and diasporas
- Public health, welfare, and disability
- Environment and climate change
- Migration, refuge, and mobility
- Embodied experiences and emotions

- Collective action, social movements, and resistance
- Nourishment, food, and nutrition
- Postcolonial and decolonial dialogues
- Moral systems and deviance
- Memory, justice, and human rights
- Cultural expressions, art, and media
- Identity, self-perceptions, and meaning-making
- Polarization, radicalization, and discourse

We invite submissions of 250-word abstracts or project descriptions as a PDF file until February 16, 2024. Project submissions may include, but are not limited to: academic papers (in-progress work welcomed and encouraged!), artistic pieces (video, photography, creative writing, critiques), or book chapters.

Participants will be notified about acceptance decisions by March 8. There is no participation or registration fee, and more details about the colloquia will be communicated in the upcoming weeks.

For all questions regarding the conference and to submit your proposal please email hannah.judson@stonybrook.edu.

We look forward to receiving your submissions!

The SBU Sociology Student Colloquia Organizing Committee

 **Announcement #3:** The most read journal article from the Journal of World-Systems Research (JWSR) for the year 2023:



Are you curious about what the most downloaded and read article on world-systems research was, at the JWSR?

Well, Andrej Grubačić – editor of JWSR – has that information!

William I. Robinson's "The Travesty of 'Anti-Imperialism'" was the most downloaded article, with 1,064 downloads!

Read Dr. Robinson's article at the *JWSR*, here: <https://doi.org/10.5195/jwsr.2023.1221>.

Recent Scholarly Accomplishments by Members of our Section

RECENT SCHOLARSHIP

BOOKS:

Rodriguez, Nestor. 2023. *Capitalism and Migration: The Rise of Hegemony in the World-System*. Switzerland: Springer Nature. Webpage here: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-22067-8>.

ACADEMIC JOURNAL SPECIAL/FULL ISSUES:

Kristin Plys, Priyansh, and Kanishka Goonewardena. (Eds.) 2024. 'Marxist Thought in South Asia' [Special issue]. *Political Power and Social Theory*.
<https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/doi/10.1108/S0198-8719202440>.

ACADEMIC ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS:

Almeida, Paul D, Luis Rubén González Márquez, and Eliana Fonsah. 2023. "The Forms of Climate Action." *Sociology Compass*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/soc4.13177>.

Almeida, Paul D, and Luis Rubén González Márquez. 2023. "Interpreting Repressive and Economic Threats: Música Contestataria and Collective Resistance in Central America." *Latin American Perspectives* 50(3):134–156.

Ciccantell, Paul, David A. Smith, and Elizabeth Sowers. 2023. "Trade Wars and Disrupted Global Commodity Chains: Hallmarks of the Breakdown of the U.S. World Order and a New Era of Competition and Conflict?" *Journal of World-Systems Research* 29(2): 457-479:
<https://doi.org/10.5195/jwsr.2023.1164>.

Ciccantell, Paul, David A. Smith, and Steve Topik. 2023. "Commodity Chains: Analytical Advantages and Challenges" in Jon Curry-Machado (ed.). Chapter 1 in *Oxford Handbook of Commodity History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Book link at:
<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-oxford-handbook-of-commodity-history-9780197502679?cc=us&lang=en>.

Deb, Nikhil. 2023. "Unyielding Humanity from Catastrophic Ruins: New Political Society for Social and Environmental Justice after Bhopal." *Environmental Sociology* 10(1):118-134.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/23251042.2023.2270284>.

Deb, Nikhil and Louise Seamster. 2023. "Socioenvironmental Injustice across the Global Divide: Slow Violence and Institutional Betrayal in Bhopal and Flint." *Sociology of Development*.
<https://doi.org/10.1525/sod.2023.0008>.

Deb, Nikhil and Avijit Chakrabarty. 2023. "Green Potential in the Global South: The Phulbari Movement in Neoliberal Bangladesh. In *Green Crime in the Global South: Essays on Southern Green Criminology*, edited by David Rodríguez Goyes. Palgrave.
https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-27754-2_7.

Edwards, Guy, Paul K. Gellert, Omar Faruque, Kathryn Hochstetler, Pamela D. McElwee, Prakash Kaswhan, Ruth E. McKie, Carlos Milani, Timmons Roberts and Jonathan Walz. 2023. "Climate Obstruction in the Global South: Future Research Trajectories." *PLOS Climate* 2(7):e0000241. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pclm.0000241>.

Fischer-Kowalski, Marina, Fridolin Krausmann, Peter Paul Pichler, Robert K. Schaeffer, Stefan Stadler. 2023. "Great Transformations: Social revolutions erupted during energy transitions around the world, 1500-2013." *Energy Research & Social Science* 105: 103280. DOI: [https://authors.elsevier.com/sd/article/S2214-6296\(23\)00340-7](https://authors.elsevier.com/sd/article/S2214-6296(23)00340-7),

Gellert, Paul K. and Sarah D'Onofrio. 2024. "Flex Commodities and Intertwining World-Ecologies: Indonesian Palm Waste as an Environmental Fix in the New Zealand Dairy Industry." *Political Geography* 108:103038. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2023.103038>.

Jacinto, Martín. 2023. "Assessing the Stability of the Core/Periphery Structure and Mobility in the Post-2008 Global Crisis Era: A World-Systems Analysis of the International Trade Network." *Journal of World-Systems Research* 29(2): 401-430. <https://doi.org/10.5195/jwsr.2023.1148>.

Khoshnevis, Hadi. 2023. "State of Exception, necropolitics, and Puerto Rico: Naturalizing Disaster and Naturalizing Difference." *Capitalism Nature Socialism*. Online first DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10455752.2023.2279957>.

Leffel, Benjamin, Ben Derudder, Michele Acuto, and Jeroen van der Heijden. 2023. "Not so Polycentric: The Stratified Structure & National Drivers of Transnational Municipal Networks." *Cities* 143:104597. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2023.104597>.

Miraj, Umama. 2023. "Murder as Praxis? Theorizing Marxist Feminism in Pakistan Through Akhtar Baloch's Prison Narratives", Pys, K., Priyansh and Goonewardena, K. (Ed.) *Marxist Thought in South Asia* (Political Power and Social Theory, Vol. 40), Emerald Publishing Limited, Leeds, pp. 75-97. <https://doi.org/10.1108/S0198-871920230000040006>.

Morosin, Alessandro. 2023. "The State, Accumulation, and Oaxaca's Earthquake Survivors: Three Mechanisms of Inequality." *Latin American Perspectives*. Online first DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0094582X231154265>.

Morosin, Alessandro. 2023. Ecocide, Ethnic Rights and Extractivism: Struggles for Environmental Justice in Mexico. In *Environmental Justice in North America* (pp. 232-265). Routledge.

Mueller, Jason C. 2023. "Climate change, counter-terrorism and capitalist development in Somalia." *Review of African Political Economy*, 50(177-178) (Special Issue on: *The climate emergency in Africa: crisis, solutions and resistance*): 340-354. Available at: <https://www.scienceopen.com/hosted-document?doi=10.1080/03056244.2023.2261256>.

Mueller, Jason C. 2023. "Subjective destitution, love, and rebellion in pandemic times: Theorizing with Hot Skull." *Human Geography*. Online first DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/19427786231190848>.

Pitluck, Aaron Z. 2023. "The interpretive and relational work of financial innovation: A resemblance of assurance in Islamic finance." *Journal of Cultural Economy* 16(6):793-811. Available open access at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/17530350.2023.2196990>.

Pitluck, Aaron Z. 2023. "Collaboration across ontological worlds: Reflections on intellectual brokerage from Islamic banking and finance." Pp. 178-92 in *De-Centering Global Sociology: The Peripheral Turn in Social Theory and Research*, edited by Arthur Bueno, Mariana Teixeira, and David Strecker. New York and London: Routledge. Available at: <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003054016-16/collaboration-across-ontological-worlds-aaron-pitluck>.

Plys, Kristin. 2023. "The Female Nude in Anti-Zia Feminist Painting" 21: *Inquiries into Art, History, and the Visual/Beiträge zur Kunstgeschichte und visuellen Kultur* Issue 4: 639-673. Available at: <https://journals.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/xxi/article/view/100737>.

Smith, David A, Paul S. Ciccantell, Elizabeth A. Sowers. 2022. "Reconstructing Commodity Chain Analysis as World-Systems Analysis." in R. Korzeniewicz, B. Silver and C. Payne, *World-Systems Analysis at a Critical Juncture (43rd Annual PEWS Conference Volume)*. New York: Routledge. Available at: <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003325109-6/reconstructing-commodity-chain-analysis-world-systems-analysis-david-smith-paul-ciccantell-elizabeth-sowers>.

Zhang, Lu. 2023. "A 'Race to the Bottom' or Variegated Work Regimes? Industrial Relocation, the Changing Migrant Labor Regime, and Worker Agency in China's Electronics Industry." *Review of International Political Economy*, 30(1): 359-383. Online DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09692290.2021.2010789>.

PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY:

Almeida, Paul. 2023. "Investing in the Building Blocks of Climate Action." *Springer Nature: Research Communities*. Available at: <https://communities.springernature.com/posts/investing-in-the-building-blocks-of-climate-action>.

Mueller, Jason C. 2024. "Unveiling Silent Suffering: The Covert U.S. 'War on Terror' in Somalia" *The Academic Minute*, series by NPR and the Association of American Colleges & Universities. Audio & Transcript available here: <https://academicminute.org/2024/01/jason-c-mueller-kennesaw-state-university-unveiling-silent-suffering-the-covert-u-s-war-on-terror-in-somalia/>.

Mueller, Jason C. 2023. "Despite one of the US military's greatest fiascoes, American troops are still in Somalia fighting an endless war." *The Conversation*, October 4. Available at: <https://theconversation.com/despite-one-of-the-us-militarys-greatest-fiascoes-american-troops-are-still-in-somalia-fighting-an-endless-war-206368>.

Mueller, Jason C. 2023. "How the United States Underdeveloped Somalia." *Marxist Sociology Blog: Theory, Research, Politics*, November 13. Available at: <https://marxistsociology.org/2023/11/how-the-united-states-underdeveloped-somalia/>.

OTHER ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Kristin Plys is a *J. Clawson Mills Scholar and Interdisciplinary Senior Fellow* in the Director's Office, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art for the 2023-24 academic year. At the Met, they is working on a book in-progress on female artists who launched a global artistic and social movement against Zia ul Haq's military dictatorship in the 1980s, and furthering their work in public humanities though the museum as a site of debate and exchange for contemporary social issues through an engagement with objects of the past.

Photos of PEWS scholars working, chatting, and thinking about world-historical issues!

Philadelphia, PA

August 2023

Photos courtesy of: Sahan Karatasli

PEWS Workshop



ASA PEWS Session on Crises



ASA 2023 PEWS Business Meeting & Award Announcements





Are you considering submitting your work to a session of ASA 2024, in Montreal?

Don't forget, the **PEWS section has an *Open paper* session, and a *Roundtable* session!**

The deadline to submit is February 26, 2024, no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time Zone.