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The Quality of Social Existence in a Globalising World

**Research Committee on
ECONOMY AND SOCIETY RC02**

http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/congress2006/rc/rc02_durban.htm

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Call for Papers

Contributions are invited to the following sessions:

Session 1. Trade, development and the environment: Insights via commodity chain analyses

Organiser: April Linton, University of California-San Diego, USA, aplinton@ucsd.edu, fax: 1-858-534-4753

Trade affects the distribution of economic wealth through affecting the production of goods. It also affects the distribution of environmental impacts by defining the rate and extent of natural resource extraction and production. Yet systematic scholarship evaluating the multifaceted relationships between trade, development and environment has been rare until now. This interdisciplinary panel will feature research that assesses and compares natural resource-based commodity chains as they affect economic development and environmental consequences in both producing and consuming nations. Commodities examined are those for which there are significant trade linkages between the global north and south, but production and consumption is located in both settings.

Session 2. Workers, peasants and development

Organiser: Giovanni Arrighi, Johns Hopkins University, USA, arrighi@jhu.edu, fax: 1-410-516-7590

The development paradigm is at a critical juncture. The persistence of the North-South income divide, in combination with Southern de-ruralization and industrialization, is creating a highly unstable political, social and ecological mix. The session will examine various forms of peasant and worker resistance to 'accumulation by dispossession' and the contribution of this resistance to the reframing of the development paradigm.

Session 3. Power and position in global value chains

Organiser: Dennis McNamara, Georgetown University, USA, mcnamard@georgetown.edu, fax: 1-202-687-7326

The hierarchy of manufacturing and distribution nodes in global value chains (GVCs) provides a new focus on development, isolation or integration in the globalization process. This session invites papers on the formation of GVCs, whether global, regional, bilateral, or between centers within a single country. We are interested also in control of cross-border networks within manufacturing or distribution nodes, whether of finance, technology, or markets. Finally, this session welcomes work on power within the social architecture of "industrial districts," "clusters" or "hubs". Social architecture here would include how ethnic, religious, racial, identities have been mobilized in support of geographical centralization and specialization into GVC nodes.

Session 4. Human security, global society. Special session on the Congress theme
Organiser: Dennis McNamara, Georgetown University, USA, mcnamard@georgetown.edu, fax: 1-202-687-7326

Economic participation in global flows of finance, information, and technology define a critical area of human security for the developing world. This session addresses three issues. We welcome theoretical papers addressing the contrast made by Manuel Castells between flows of space and flows of place, as well as the irony of the growing significance of the local in global markets and manufacturing strategies highlighted in the New Economic Geography. Secondly, we encourage empirical papers on national patterns of inclusion or exclusion within global flows, particularly those looking to the role of states, organized groups in civil society, or business and/or labor organizations. Finally, we welcome studies of tacit or explicit knowledge transfer, whether from a business organization perspective, or a broader theoretical perspective of the role of knowledge in global society.

Session 5. Economy and society across and beyond the nation-state: Processes of regional and global integration

Organisers: Patrick Ziltener, Zurich University, Switzerland, pziltener@hotmail.com, Mark Herkenrath and Volker Bornschie, Zurich University, Switzerland

The manifold relations between economy and society have always been the very focus of our research committee. Yet, recent debates on internationalization and global integration suggest that we more systematically reflect upon these relations "across and beyond the nation-state". This session thus includes analyses on the following three topics: i) supranational economic and political integration-the regional shaping of the political world economy and world society; ii) transnational capitalist elite interests and class formation-their influence on regional and global regulatory regimes; iii) transnational civil society-unity and diversity in movements opposing 'neoliberal' regionalism and globalization.

Session 6. Justice evaluations, other attitudes towards inequality, and their consequences

Organisers: Hanno Scholtz, scholtz@soziologie.unizh.ch, Thomas Volken, and Volker Bornschie, University of Zurich, Switzerland

Recent research on social inequalities and their consequences has increasingly revolved around norms: Peoples' subjective feelings of (in)justice, their perceptions and evaluations of social inequalities are as consequential for social behaviour as are objective factors. On both ends of the subjective-objective inequality discourse, a large body of theoretical and empirical material exists; but this material has yet to be connected. For example, it is yet unclear if and to what degree measures of subjective income inequality relate to "objective" measures such as the well-known Gini-coefficient. The same is true for many more phenomena of the social structure and the cultural context. How do social institutions and individual characteristics influence the perception of income inequality? How do perceptions shape those institutions? Furthermore, empirical findings on many prominent consequences of inequality, such as its potential to give rise to social conflict, are based on data ending in the early 1980s, e.g. the widely spread Taylor/Jodice dataset. Thus, a fresh look at the link between income inequality and social conflict becomes imperative. Does income inequality still spur social conflict through the 80s and 90s of the 20th century, or is conflict being privatised? What are the dominant forms of conflict articulation? Who are the protagonists of social conflict? And, what are their strategies?

Session 7. The role of port cities and labor in the global distribution of commodities

Organisers: Edna Bonacich, University of California-Riverside, USA, edna.bonacich@ucr.edu, fax: 1-951 827 3330 and Peter V Hall, University of Waterloo, Canada, pvhall@uwaterloo.ca, fax: 1-519-746-0658

Ports are critical nodes in the distribution of globally produced commodities. Tons of goods, worth billions of dollars, are shipped by sea between sites of production and consumption. One might argue that ocean freight transportation was the first and most thoroughly global of industries. This panel will allow for the comparison of particular port studies from around the world. Possible topics to cover include: the links and conflicts between cities and ports; the logistics systems (transportation and warehousing) surrounding ports; the power relations surrounding the movement of ocean freight; the labor relations of ports and their linked industries,

Session 8. Globalization and migration networks

Organiser: Ivan Light, University of California-Los Angeles, USA, ihlight@yahoo.com
Migration networks reduce the short-term social, emotional, and psychological costs of migration, but in the longer-term they also reduce the money rewards of migration by saturating labor and housing markets in reception cities. However, in the context of globalization, with the attendant changes in income distribution, the longer-term self-canceling economic incentive of migration networks may evaporate among highly skilled workers but not among low-skilled workers. The panel requests contributions from scholars who are tracking skilled and unskilled migrants to developed country destinations that are undergoing globalization.

Session 9. The rise of giant retail and producer multinationals in global commodity chains

Organiser: Richard Appelbaum, University of California-Santa Barbara, USA, rich@isber.ucsb.edu

The session will explore a significant trend in global production systems, tied in with Gereffi's notion of the growing strength of buyer-driven commodity chains, but going beyond it to include the giant, east-Asian factory consortia that now comprise an important middle layer in the chains (Nien Hsing, PouChen, etc). This session will build on the work that is now being done on Wal-Mart and retailing but will include papers from people looking at the production side.

Session 10. Regulating globalisations and diverse inequalities

Organiser: Sylvia Walby, Lancaster University, UK, s.walby@lancaster.ac.uk

While most research on globalisation has been on financial flows and the impact on manufacturing industry, the interest here is in the regulation of globalisation and its implications for diversity and complex inequalities in a broader economic frame. While globalisation studies have conventionally addressed the pressure to deregulate, this panel will examine the new modes of regulation of the economy and employment that come into focus when the social relations associated with diverse inequalities including gender, ethnicity, and disability are analysed. These regulations are changing the experience of employment, especially non-standard forms of employment. There is emerging global and regional governance in these domains, not least in response to global social movements and the discourse of universal human rights, in which, for example, the EU is both a taker and a maker of global policy initiatives. Also, new forms of social theory are needed to analyse the plurality of globalisation processes that shape these relations between economy and society.

Session 11. World cities and the global economy

Organisers: Michael Timberlake, University of Utah, USA, timber@csbs.utah.edu

The session will include papers on global city systems, urbanization and global processes, social relations in the global city, the local politics of world city aspirations, winners and losers in the world city game.

Session 12. Social theory and financial markets

Organiser: Aaron Pitluck, University of Wisconsin, USA, apitluck@ssc.wisc.edu

This panel gathers together papers with a common empirical focus on financial markets with the goal of advancing socio-economic theory. I am interested in empirical studies that take place in any national or international financial market (e.g. stock markets, bond markets, money markets, derivatives markets, or any other capital or lending market) as well as empirical work relevant to financial markets (e.g. the social construction of prices or values, studies of financial institutions, financial occupations, or national financial systems). Papers with research in the developing world are particularly welcome. Each proposal should clearly state how the empirical research converses with social theory.

Session 13. Transnational corporations and national development policies: a catch-up process for poorer world regions?

Organisers: Jochen Tholen, University of Bremen, Germany, jtholen@uni-bremen.de, fax: 49-421-182680 and Alexius A. Pereira, National University of Singapore, Singapore, socaap@nus.edu.sg, fax: 65-6777-9579

In a globalising world, the "traditional" competition within the Triad (North America, Europe, East Asia) will be more and more accompanied by the emergence of new countries and regions as attractive hosts of FDI - primarily China, but Vietnam, Latin America etc. too. Home regions of most of the FDIs are North America and Western Europe. Does this mean that these flows could bridge the gap between rich and poor world regions? Or does this mean that the traditional divisions of labour, income and wealth will be maintained or even becoming sharper by FDI?

Session 14. Global financial institutions: past, present and future

Organiser: Patrick Bond, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, bondp@ukzn.ac.za, fax: 27-31-2602502

The global financial institutions that emerged and developed since World War II have been criticized for mainly serving the interests of elites. This session focuses on the history of these institutions and prospects for their abolition, reform or replacement with more democratically controlled and fully humane successors.

Session 15. The domestic and transnational expansion of the private sector, corporate governance, mergers and development

Organisers: Alicia Giron, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico, alicia@servidor.unam.mx, fax: 5255- 5623-0156 and Arnaud Sales, University of Montreal, Canada, arnaud.sales@sympatico.ca, fax: 1-514-343-5722

The domestic and transnational expansion of the private sector over the last decades is a phenomenon that deserves study. Deregulation and liberalized financial processes have induced a new concentration and centralization of economic power in many countries and globally. Merger movements have produced new organizational structures and challenges for developing countries. The objective of this panel is to discover how deregulation and liberalization processes have worked around the world in the different countries.

Session 16. Rethinking Asian business networks

Organizer: Professor Eun Mee Kim, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, emkim@ewha.ac.kr

Asian business enterprises did not arouse much interest in organizational studies until the extraordinary rates of growth of the so-called East Asian economies. Early efforts to make sense of this economic success have emphasized cultural factors, especially the neo-Confucian perspective, focusing on the role of ideas such as *guanxi*, *xingyong*, and *ganqing*. Critics have suggested that such an approach promotes an over-socialized conception of economic action. One of the outcomes of the Financial Crisis that struck in the late 1990's was the resurgence of the market perspective in explaining the economic woes of Southeast Asian economies.

This panel, with papers based on fieldwork in various Asian countries, including Korea, Japan, China, and Southeast Asia, explores the relevance of business networks in the post 1997 environment of Asia. It will reexamine the role of *guanxi*, and business networks in accounting for Asian economic success. Are there distinctive ways in which Asian business firms are organized? What are the similarities/differences among Asian firms in various Southeast and East Asian countries?

Session 17. Business Meeting

Session 18. Alternative visions of World Society: Global economic elites and civil society in contestation

Joint session with Research Committee on Economy and Society, RC02 and Research Committee on Futures Research, RC07

Co-chairs: Markus S. Schulz, New York University, USA, markus.schulz@nyu.edu and Mark Herkenrath, University of Zurich, Switzerland, herky@access.unizh.ch

The last decade has seen a rise of transnational networks of civil society actors speaking out against the current mode of globalization and launching radical critiques of the activities of transnational corporations, the G8, and intergovernmental organizations such as the World Bank and the IMF. Images of the protests in Prague, Washington, Seattle, and Genoa were televised by all major news channels, as had been images of the Zapatista uprising of Mayan peasants in Chiapas. What alternative visions do the protest actors in the Global South and the Global North articulate, and how can they overcome the obstacles inherent in communication across linguistic and cultural barriers? How do they manage to network across national borders and vastly different socio-economic contexts? What are the responses of the global economic elites, and how do they interact with their critics? The goal of this panel is to bring together scholars working on any of these aspects from a theoretical, empirical, and/or normative viewpoint.

Additional session if membership numbers are sufficient to allow its inclusion:

Changing patterns of inequality and development

Joint session of Research Committee on Economy and Society RC02, Research Committee on Social Transformations and Sociology of Development RC09, and Research Committee on Social Stratification RC28

Organizers:

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