

Spring Issue

Global Review

Global and Transnational Sociology (G&TS) Newsletter

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1, Spring 2011

Chair's Message
George Thomas
Page 1

G&TS Sessions
Meetings and sessions
in Vegas
Page 3

G&TS Section Elections
Voting begins now!
Page 8

Erik Olin Wright
Real Utopia and G&TS
Page 10

Call for papers
Page 6

Hot off the Press
See recent publications
by section members.
Page 5



Chair's Message

George Thomas

Dear Global and Transnational Sociology Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I report on the Section's first program. We were assigned three sessions based on membership and after much discussion the program committee decided to have them as open submissions and let the themes emerge. We also were granted a fourth session because our Section day is on the last day of the meetings. For various reasons, not the least of which was the interest voiced by members, we made this an invited session.

The details can be found on the Section website <http://www2.asanet.org/sectionglobal/conferences.html> and of course in the ASA searchable program.

Shortly, we will post the details of the roundtables as we finalize table composition

and presidents. Also posted on the Section website are ASA Special Invited and Thematic Sessions related to Global and Transnational Sociology.

I take responsibility for the awkwardness in several of the titles - I opted for comprehensive descriptive titles, thus style and jazziness tended to suffer - if there is any of the latter it is due to the insistence of the Program Committee! Details of the process will be in the Committee report at the Business Meeting and published in that meeting's minutes. A quick note: we received 51 paper submissions that had our section as its first choice and over 75 that had our section as second choice.

We encourage you to take special notice of the hour roundtable session and the business meeting. The program committee and section leadership want to make a strong commitment to roundtables as part of the Section's culture. Given the limited number of paper sessions that even very large sections have, we have to exploit roundtables to maximize our presence and the participation of our members. To do so, we have to demonstrate their value as scholarly outlets

by attending and taking part. Come to the roundtable session and then stay for the business meeting.

Thanks to the Program Committee, especially the sub-committee for 2011

Sarah Babb, co-Chair
Aaron Benavot, organized the paper sessions for 2011
Vida Bajc, organized the roundtables for 2011
Vilna Bashi Treitler, sub-committee for 2011
Asli Gur, sub-committee for 2011
Leslie Salzinger, 2012
Nitsan Chorev, 2012

The sociological perspective has much to offer the study of global and transnational processes, and these processes have great potential to stimulate innovation in sociology. It certainly is easy to drain all that is exciting and promising out of any new endeavor so as to preserve entrenched ways of thinking. Working with the section this year however, I am struck by the truly excellent (young!) scholars who are advancing our understanding of the global and transnational and reflecting anew on longstanding issues in sociology. Let's press on.

EDITORS' NOTE

Welcome to the Spring issue of the G&TS Newsletter.

Global and Transnational Sociology will have its first official start this year in Las Vegas. We have included detailed information about our sessions and meetings in this newsletter. We will also have our first section lunch on August 22nd organized by Peggy Levitt and Lauren Langman. Please join us for with your colleagues for easy acquaintance and relaxed conversation over curry. It's also an opportunity for graduate students and faculty to meet and greet one another in an informal setting to talk about common interests and issues of professional development. Chris Chase Dunn, David Frank, John Boli, Beverly Silver, George Thomas, Valentine Moghadam, Roland Robertson and others will be there.

You may have noticed that we have been toying with our acronym lately. While earlier we called our section GATS, we are now reverting to G&TS. Despite our global ambition, we did not want to encourage any unwitting association with GATT.

Looking beyond Vegas, we have included a short piece by Erik Olin Wright, President-Elect, about actual and possible connections between global sociology and the next ASA's theme of Real Utopia.

Our section is off to a flying start, and we are determined to follow through with our inaugural success; so we hope what happens in Vegas doesn't stay in Vegas; instead, it continues the trajectory in the years to come!

A. Aneesh

Univ. Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Shehzad Nadeem

Lehman College, CUNY

The Global and Transnational Sociology Section will be hosting its first mentoring lunch at this year's ASA meetings

Monday, August 22nd

We will meet 12:15 - 12:30 PM at the HOTEL REGISTRATION DESK at the Caesars Palace and share cabs to the restaurant



INDIA PALACE

Place: India Palace
505 East Twain Avenue
Las Vegas

All-You-Can-Eat Indian buffet for about \$15.00

Come one and all and please spread the word

RSVP's (to Peggy Levitt plevitt@wellesley.edu <<mailto:plevitt@wellesley.edu>>) appreciated but you can always come at the last minute.

Bring a colleague (section membership not required).

Global and Transnational Sociology in Las Vegas



The program for this year's Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association is now online (at <http://convention2.allacademic.com/one/asa/asa11/>). Below is a schedule of activities for the Section on Global and Transnational Sociology (most are on the last day--Tuesday, August 23rd) and related ASA Special and Thematic Sessions.

Official Section Meetings and Sessions

- Section Mentoring Luncheon (Mon, Aug 22, 12:15pm - 2:15pm)
- Section Reception (Mon, Aug 22, 6:30 - 8:10)
- Section Business Meeting (Tue, Aug 23, 1:30pm - 2:10pm)

Session on Contested Politics and Policies in Global and Nation-State Dynamics

Mon, Aug 22 - 2:30pm - 4:10pm

All the World's A Stage: How Globalization of Media and Civil Society Are Affecting Contentious Politics: *J. Craig Jenkins, Edward M. Crenshaw, and Kristopher K. Robison* (Ohio State University)

Crafting the Nuclear Regime Complex (1950-1975): Dynamics of Fragmentation and Harmonization of Nonproliferation Treaties: *Gregoire Mallard* (McGill University)



How Did International Agencies Manufacture the "One World, One Health" Policy Framework? *Yu-Ju Chien* (University of Minnesota)

Scientist Politics and Global Governance in the Cotton Trade: *Amy Adams Quark* (College of William & Mary)

World Society and the Global Foreign Aid Network, 1966-2005: *Liam Swiss* (Memorial University)

Organizer and Presider: *Aaron Benavot* (Univ at Albany-State University of New York)

Discussant: *Kiyoteru Tsutsui* (University of Michigan)

Session on Constructions of Global and National Identities and Perceptions through Cultural Mechanisms

Tue, Aug 23 - 8:30am - 10:10am

How is Global Communication Possible: *A. Aneshkin* (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

Knowledge and Beliefs about Development and Developmental Hierarchies: Viewpoints of Ordinary People in Thirteen Counties: *Arland Thornton* (University of Michigan), *Georgina P Binstock* (CENEP Institution)

Creating Global Citizens?: Museums, the Nation, and the World: *Peggy Levitt* (Wellesley College)



Portraying the Global: Cross-National Trends in Textbooks' Portrayal of Globalization and Global Citizenship: *Elizabeth S. Buckner and Susan Garnett Russell* (Stanford University)

The production of national difference in global media culture: Screen translation in four European countries: *Giselinde Kuipers* (University of Amsterdam)

Organizer: *Aaron Benavot* (Univ at Albany-State University of New York)

Presider and Discussant: *Vilna Francine Bashi Treitler* (City University of New York - Baruch College, Graduate Center)

Invited Session on Markets, Institutions, and Governance

Tue, Aug 23 - 10:30am - 12:10pm

This session brings together research on the construction of markets and competition through global institutions, organizations and practices. It presents analyses on how transnational organizations and communities (governmental, nongovernmental, private) constitute markets (transnational, regional, and national) through rulemaking. Cutting across diverse fields, the presentations will highlight the role of institutionalized cultures, law, professions,

standard-setting, and the interplay of global and local processes.

International Trade Law Organizations: *Terence C. Halliday* (American Bar Foundation)

Global-Local Interactions in Transnational Governance Fields: *Sigrid Quack* (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies)

Spreading Global Models and Enhancing Banal Localism: The Case of Local Government Cultural Policy Development: *Pertti Alasuutari* (University of Tampere)

Global Science: A Cultural Institution in the Era of Markets: *Gili S. Drori* (Stanford University)

Private Regulation in Global Supply Chains: Making Sense of "Fair" and "Sustainable" Production Standards: *Tim Bartley* (Indiana University)

Organizers: *George M. Thomas* (Arizona State University) and *Marc J. Ventresca* (University of Oxford)

Presider and Discussant: *LaDawn Haglund* (Arizona State University)

Session on Human Rights and Justice in Global-Local Dynamics

Tue, Aug 23 - 2:30pm - 4:10pm

Does Ratification of Human Rights Treaties Increase State Repression?: Reevaluating the 'Paradox of Empty Promises': *Matthew Donald Mathias* (Emory University), *Michael A. Elliott* (Towson University)

Love Thy Neighbor: Explaining Asylum Seeking and Hosting, 1982-2008: *Jeong-Woo Koo* (Sungkyunkwan University), *Eunhye Yoo* (University of Minnesota)

Signaling Commitments, Making Concessions: Democratization and State Ratification of International Human Rights Treaties, 1966-2006: *Min Zhou* (Harvard University)

The Global Diffusion of Truth Commissions - Narrating Organizational Legitimacy: *Anne K. Krueger* (Humboldt University Berlin)

The Silhouette of Women's Rights in China: The CEDAW NGO Shadow Report on "Floating Women": *Ling Han* (UCSD)

Organizer: *Aaron Benavot* (Univ at Albany-State University of New York)

Presider: *Asli F. Gur* (University of Michigan)

Discussant: *Vida Bajc* (Methodist University)

Section on Global and Transnational Sociology Roundtable Session (one-hour)

Tue, Aug 23 - 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Section Business Meeting

Tue, Aug 23, 1:30pm - 2:10pm

ASA 2011 Special and Thematic Sessions related to Global and Transnational Sociology

There are many sessions at the ASA that focus on globalization and transnational sociology, not to mention individual papers throughout that bring in global and transnational themes. It is not possible to draw attention to all of these, but we thought it useful to note the related Special and Thematic Sessions organized by the ASA program committee. Details for each can be found on the ASA website, and day/times should be checked. Apologies to those in any omitted sessions.

ASA Special Invited Sessions (alphabetical order)

Special Session. Climate Change: Reconfiguring Global Authority, Resources, Ideas, and Bodies

Sat, Aug 20 - 8:30am - 10:10am

Special Session. Global Civil Society and Religion

Sat, Aug 20 - 10:30am - 12:10pm

Special Session. Global Health Governance and HIV/AIDS

Sun, Aug 21 - 12:30pm - 2:10pm

Special Session. Globalization and the Transformation of Sexuality

Tue, Aug 23 - 8:30am - 10:10am

Special Session. New Directions in Globalization Research

Sat, Aug 20 - 10:30am - 12:10pm

Special Session. The Resurgence of Political Populism in a Global Perspective

Sun, Aug 21 - 12:30pm - 2:10pm

Special Session. Uprisings in the Arab World

Sat, Aug 20 - 4:30pm - 6:10pm

ASA Thematic Sessions (alphabetical order)

Thematic Session. Assessing the Work of Immanuel Wallerstein

Sun, Aug 21 - 10:30am - 12:10pm

Thematic Session. Conflict and Coalition Building in the Globalization Movement

Sat, Aug 20 - 10:30am - 12:10pm

Thematic Session. Drug Trafficking, Cartels and Gangs and their Socioeconomic Impact Within and Across Borders

Sun, Aug 21 - 12:30pm - 2:10pm

Thematic Session. Engaging War: Sociologists Confront National Conflict

Mon, Aug 22 - 10:30am - 12:10pm

Thematic Session. Indigenous Colonial Conflicts/ Indigenous Identities

Tue, Aug 23 - 8:30am - 10:10am

Thematic Session. Learning from Intractable Social Conflict

Mon, Aug 22 - 4:30pm - 6:10pm

Thematic Session. Myths of 9/11

Mon, Aug 22 - 2:30pm - 4:10pm

Thematic Session. Terrorism and Countering Terrorism: Micro and Macro-Level Dynamics

Tue, Aug 23 - 2:30pm - 4:10pm

Thematic Session. The Great Decline in Global Conflict since the End of the Cold War

Mon, Aug 22 - 8:30am - 10:10am

Hot off the Press

Books by section members

Tamara Kay, *NAFTA and the Politics of Labor Transnationalism* (Cambridge, 2011).

When NAFTA went into effect in 1994, many feared it would intensify animosity among North American unions, lead to the scapegoating of Mexican workers and immigrants, and eclipse any possibility for cross-border labor cooperation. But far from polarizing workers, NAFTA unexpectedly helped stimulate labor transnationalism among key North American unions and erode union policies and discourses rooted in racism. The emergence of labor transnationalism in North America presents compelling political and sociological puzzles: How did NAFTA, the concrete manifestation of globalization processes in North America, help deepen labor solidarity on the continent? And why did some unions more readily engage in transnational collaboration and embrace internationalism than others? In addition to making the provocative argument that global governance institutions can play a pivotal role in the development of transnational social movements, this book suggests that globalization need not undermine labor movements: collectively, unions can help shape how the rules governing the global economy are made.



Joseph Conti, *Between Law and Diplomacy: The Social Contexts of Disputing at the World Trade Organization*. (Stanford University Press, 2011).

Between Law and Diplomacy crafts an insider's look at international trade disputes at one of the most important institutions in the global economy—the World Trade Organization. The WTO regulates the global rules for trade, and—unique among international organizations—it provides a legalized process for litigation between countries over trade grievances.

Drawing on interviews with trade lawyers, ambassadors, trade delegations, and trade jurists, this book details how trade has



become increasingly legalized and the implications of that for power relations between rich and poor countries. Joseph Conti looks closely at who uses the system to initiate and pursue disputes, who settles and on what terms, and the relative disconnect between pursuing a dispute and what a country gains through efforts to gain compliance with WTO dictates. Through this inside look at the process of disputing, Conti provides fresh perspective on how and why the law authorizes the use of specific resources and tactics in the ever unfolding struggle for control in the global economy.

Janet A. Harkness, Michael Braun, Brad Edwards, Timothy P. Johnson, Lars E. Lyberg, Peter Ph. Mohler, Beth-Ellen Pennell, Tom W. Smith (Editors), *Survey Methods in Multicultural, Multinational, and Multiregional Contexts* (Wiley, 2010)

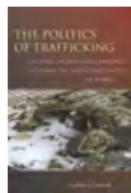
Over the past two decades, the relevance of cross-national and cross-cultural methodologies has heightened across various fields of study. Responding to increasing cultural diversity and rapid changes in how research is conducted, *Survey Methods in Multinational, Multiregional, and Multicultural Contexts* addresses the need for refined tools and improved procedures in cross-cultural and cross-national studies worldwide.



Based on research submitted to the International Conference on Multinational, Multicultural, and Multiregional Survey Methods (3MC), this book identifies important changes in comparative methodology approaches, outlines new findings, and provides insight into future developments in the field. Some of the world's leading survey researchers gather in this volume to address the need for a standard framework that promotes quality assurance and quality control in survey research, and its impact on various stages of the survey life cycle, including study design and organization, cross-national sampling, testing and pretesting, data collection, and input and output variable harmonization.

Stephanie Limoncelli, *The Politics of Trafficking: The First International Movement to Combat the Sexual Exploitation of Women* (Stanford University Press, 2010).

Sex trafficking is not a recent phenomenon. Over 100 years ago, the first international traffic in women for prostitution emerged, prompting a worldwide effort to combat it. The *Politics of Trafficking* provides a unique look at the history of that first anti-trafficking movement, illuminating the role gender, sexuality,



and national interests play in international politics.

Initially conceived as a global humanitarian effort to protect women from sexual exploitation, the movement's feminist-inspired vision failed to achieve its universal goal and gradually gave way to nationalist concerns over "undesirable" migrants and state control over women themselves. Addressing an issue that is still of great concern today, this book sheds light on the ability of international non-governmental organizations to challenge state power, the motivations for state involvement in humanitarian issues pertaining to women, and the importance of gender and sexuality to state officials engaged in nation building.

Kim Scipes, *AFL-CIO's Secret War against Developing Country Workers: Solidarity or Sabotage?* (Lexington Books, 2010).

The principles of trade unionism are based on working people acting together in solidarity with each other, to improve wages, working conditions, and life for themselves and all others. In its most developed forms, this extends not only to the worker next to you, but to working people all around the world, wherever they might be. Some of the foremost proponents of these principles in the United States since the 1880s has been the American Federation of Labor (AFL), then later the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), and since their merger in 1955, the AFL-CIO.

Rachel Schurman and William Munro, *Fighting for the Future of Food: Activists Versus Agribusiness in the Struggle over Biotechnology* (University of Minnesota Press, 2010).

When scientists working in the agricultural biotechnology industry first altered the genetic material of one organism by introducing genes from an entirely different organism, the reaction was generally enthusiastic. To many, these genetically modified organisms (GMOs) promised to solve the challenges faced by farmers and to relieve world hunger. Yet within a decade, this "gene revolution" had abruptly stalled. Widespread protests against the potential dangers of "Frankenfoods" and the patenting of seed supplies in the developing world forced the industry to change course. As a result, in the late 1990s, some of the world's largest firms reduced their investment in the agricultural sector, narrowed their focus to a few select crops, or sold off their agricultural divisions altogether.

Fighting for the Future of Food tells the story of how a small group of social activists, working together across tables,



and the Internet, took on the biotech industry and achieved stunning success. Rachel Schurman and William A. Munro detail how the anti-biotech movement managed to alter public perceptions about GMOs and close markets to such products. Drawing strength from an alternative worldview that sustained its members' sense of urgency and commitment, the anti-GMO movement exploited political opportunities created by the organization and culture of the biotechnology industry itself. *Fighting for the Future of Food* ultimately addresses society's understanding and trust (or mistrust) of technological innovation and the complexities of the global agricultural system that provides our food.

Articles by section members

Joseph A. Conti, 2010. "Learning to Dispute: Repeat Participation, Expertise, and Reputation at the World Trade Organization." *Law & Social Inquiry* 35:1, 625-62.

Susan Olzak. Forthcoming. "Does Globalization Breed Discontent?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.

Judith Rollins. 2009. "Nevisian Women's Gender Consciousness: Content and Sources." *Caribbean Studies* 37(1): 3-43.

Cristina Brădăţan, A. Popan, R. Melton. 2010. "Trans-nationality as a fluid social identity." *Social Identities*, 16(2):169-178

Awards

Ho-fung Hung at Indiana University-Bloomington was awarded the first prize of best research paper award 2010 of the World Society Foundation, Switzerland for his paper "Global Crisis, China, and the Strange Death of East Asian Developmental Model," to be published in the *Swiss Journal of Sociology*. His book, *Protest with Chinese Characteristics: Demonstrations, Riots, and Petitions in the Mid-Qing Dynasty* (Columbia University Press, 2011) was awarded the President's Book Award of the Social Science History Association.

Call for Papers

International Studies Association, 53rd Annual Convention April 1-4, 2012, Hilton San Diego Bayfront, San Diego, California

Theme: Power, Principles and Participation in the Global Information Age
Beth A. Simmons, President

Judith Kelly and Layna Mosley, Program Chairs

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS:

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2011

Please submit all paper, poster, roundtable and panel proposals via your MYISA ACCOUNT.

CALL FOR PAPERS (PDF)

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPANTS (PDF)

POWER, PRINCIPLES AND PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL INFORMATION AGE

• Canadian communication theorist Marshall McLuhan famously said, “The medium is the message,” and coined the term “global village.” McLuhan died in 1980, but his insights are even more relevant today. The information environment is drastically different from that of even a decade ago, as new forms of information flows come into existence almost annually. Facebook now has over 500 million users, and Twitter, a service barely in existence three years ago, counts over 175 million users. These tools are not only for finding long-lost school friends or sharing pictures of loved ones: they often are used for political purposes. For instance, both text messages and tweets served as vital communication tools during the 2009 post-election protests in Iran. Indeed, Reuters reported that United States government went so far as to ask Twitter to postpone maintenance and maintain service during this time. Humanitarian groups also use these communications technologies to bring attention to events worldwide: in the wake of Haiti’s 2010 earthquake, the Red Cross collected \$30 million in SMS-based donations from US phone users. And the 2010 elections witnessed US political candidates (and their staffs) tweeting and facebooking like never before.

The theme of this year’s conference is inspired by the apparent impact of new information and communication technologies on international and transnational affairs. Information has altered power relations; it has helped to globalize norms and principles; it has the potential to bring new participants into political and social processes world-wide. From geographic information systems that bring satellite images to our research to sophisticated form of electronic textual analysis to internet surveys, it is undeniable that a whole range of new technologies is affecting the way we think about and do research in international studies.

How have the rapid and fundamental changes in information and communication technologies influenced the political environment and altered global connections? We welcome papers and panels that consider these broad questions, as well as those that address related questions, including:

- How and to what extent has the global availability of information undercut the monopoly of state authorities to define and control “the truth”? How has information impacted political and social authority - e.g., in countries as diverse as China, Russia, and the United States? How has information impacted the relationship between private and public actors? What about national security in an era of Wikileaks? We welcome papers that think through what new forms of information technology mean for the “strength” of the state, its ability to control information, frame and manipulate political discourse, and what this means for states’ relationships with a broad range of private actors.

- What new forms of civil society cooperation (local, transnational, global) are premised on the cheap availability of information, as well as on low communications costs? How have strategies of existing civil society groups changed in response to new communications technologies? Are some traditional groups, or groups in some regions of the world, disadvantaged by the rise of new technologies? Is the way people communicate undermining social capital or producing a new type of social capital? We welcome papers that explore the ways in which new information technologies have affected civil society organization, cooperation and participation at all levels of politics.
- How is information transmitted, and what are the political, economic and distributional implications of various models of transmission? Do social networks matter in the transmission of information, and in its interpretation? Does “new media” differ from or change the role of the traditional media? We welcome papers that explore the social consequences of new information technologies – who benefits, but also who is excluded, in comparative perspective.
- How does information affect global governance? Have modern forms of information transmittal increased participation in national, transnational and global affairs? Has it contributed to transparency in global governance? Does it democratize international governance systems? We welcome papers that look at the implications of new information technologies for global governance, accountability, and participation. In particular, we encourage papers that think through the availability of information for the global strategic environment, broadly understood.
- How has the availability of information impacted international studies as an academic discipline? What are the most important new sources of information available to researchers in recent years? In what ways does the flood of information change the methods by which we assess arguments and validate truth claims? Has the wealth of information encouraged consensus on what constitutes “evidence” or has it undermined such consensus? What new questions are we able to ask – as well as potentially to answer? We welcome papers that examine the impact of the information revolution on modern international studies research, from satellite-based data, to web-scraping to electronic document coding projects. Furthermore, we welcome reflection on how new information and communication technologies alter the questions we are able to ask, as well as critical reflections on the limits of new ways of “knowing.”

The deadline for paper and panel proposals, made through the ISA system, is June 1, 2011. Inquiries to the program chairs should be directed to isa2012@isanet.org.

Candidates for Section Chair

(Vote for 1)

Julia Adams



Present Professional Position

Chair, Sociology Department, Yale University, 2010-continuing; Joseph C. Fox Director, Fox International

Fellowship, 2010-continuing; Professor in International and Area Studies, Yale University, 2007-continuing; Professor of Sociology, Yale University, 2004-continuing

Previous Professional Positions

Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Michigan, 1999-2004

Education

Ph.D. in Sociology, University of Wisconsin, 1990
M.S. in Sociology, University of Wisconsin, 1984
B.A. in Sociology & Anthropology, Reed College, 1980

Offices, Committee Memberships, and Editorial Appointments Held in ASA

Coeditor, *Sociological Theory* (2005-2009)
Member, Prize Committee, Economic Sociology Section, 2010; Commentator, ASA Junior Theorists Conference, University of California-Berkeley, 2009; Member, Prize Committee, Theory Section, 2007; Elected Member, Council, Theory Section, 2005-8; Chair, Book Prize, Theory Section, 2004; Member, Editorial Board, *American Sociological Review*, 2000-2003; Elected Member, Committee on Nominations, 2003-2004; Chair, Barrington Moore Jr. Prize Committee, Section in Comparative-Historical Sociology, 2002; Member, Student Paper Prize Committee, Section in Political Sociology, 2001; Member, Prize Committee, Theory Section, 2000; Chair, Prize Committee, Bendix Award, Section in Comparative Historical Sociology, 1998; Member, Council, Section in Comparative Historical Sociology, 1997-2000; Newsletter Editor, Section in Comparative Historical Sociology, 1990-91

Statement

If ever there were a section in formation whose time had come, it was G&TS. No wonder it leapt onto the roster of the ASA sections with such élan. Building it would, I

G & T S S E C T I O N S E L E C T I O N S

think, be relatively easy, because the global and transnational are so evidently with us, more and more, every day – and because the work of section members is dynamic, exciting, and on the leading edge of sociological innovation.

Two things strike me as more collectively challenging, however. One of my goals, undertaken on the section's behalf, would be to influence the broader discipline, much of which is still wedded to the view that social processes take place within the closed confines of the contemporary United States, as a kind of naturalized boundary or container. That approach constrains our discipline and our collective knowledge and influence as sociologists. Even just within the ASA, I see potentially fruitful intellectual alliances with other sections that depart from that assumption, among them Comparative and Historical Sociology; PEWS; and of course others.

The other challenge would involve our bringing to bear the tremendous knowledge of section members on the public sphere. Members of the section are already working on this, especially as it relates to college and university teaching in the U.S. and beyond. I believe that is very important. It would also be good to think about ways to stretch beyond our academic comfort zone, to enable section members' insights, arguments, and influence to reach wider publics. As Chair, I would try to organize a real or virtual forum in which we could collectively explore these possibilities.

Pamela Paxton

Present Professional Position

Professor of Sociology and Government and Christine and Stanley E. Adams, Jr. Centennial Professor in the Liberal Arts, The University of Texas at Austin, Fall 2010-present

Previous Professional Positions

Assistant to Full Professor, Departments of Sociology and Political Science, Ohio State University, 1998-2010



Education

PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1998

M.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1994
B.A., University of Michigan, 1992

Offices, Committee Memberships, and Editorial Appointments Held in ASA
Member, ASA Political Sociology Section Council (2006-2009); Member, ASA Methodology Section Council (2006-2009); Deputy Editor, *American Sociological Review* (2007-2009)

Statement

The Global and Transnational Sociology (GATS) section is obviously flourishing, with a growing membership, three paper sessions in the upcoming ASA meeting, and a stimulating newsletter. Yet, there remains terrific potential for further growth in our membership, our visibility, and in our sense of community.

The chair of the section needs to facilitate this growth. I have a few ideas for how this could be accomplished. First, we need to continue to promote the section, our awards, and our award winners to the ASA, other ASA sections with related interests, and other relevant organizations such as the ISA or APSA. "Getting the word out" about the section serves multiple purposes: 1) it is the obvious way to expand our membership, 2) it will promote the exchange of ideas across ASA sections, and 3) it presents global and transnational sociology as a vital area of concern.

As we work to define what it means to take a global or transnational perspective, we need ways of sharing resources such as syllabi. The section website already provides a number of useful resources and could fruitfully expand to include a syllabi bank for undergraduate and graduate classes, as well as suggestions for adapting syllabi to include the study of global and transnational phenomena.

A stated goal of the section is building global scholarly ties. We need to continue to find ways to include the widest possible range of scholars in the section. We should think creatively about ways to make the section welcoming and inclusive so that all scholars interested in processes beyond the local or national feel that they can find a home in the section. A crucial piece of this process is to forge a strong community, with input from all members, as we develop our emergent section. Receptions, dinners, mini-conferences, and vibrant section sessions are all ways to build the GATS section's sense of community.

Council Members

(Vote for 4)

Cesar Rodríguez-Garavito, University of the Andes, Law School

Jeff Kentor, University of Utah

Susse Georg, Copenhagen Business School

Nina Bandelj (Ph.D., Princeton University), is Associate Professor at the University of California, Irvine. Her research on globalization combines cultural economic sociology with political economy, as in her 2009 ASR article on "Global Economy as Instituted Process." Her newest book, *The Cultural Wealth of Nations* (with Frederick Wherry), examines how developing nations can use symbolic and cultural capital to access global markets. Her latest project (with Matthew Mahutga) examines the rise of global economic institutional structures forged via bilateral investment treaties. Bandelj has served as Co-Chair of ISA's RC on Social Transformations and Sociology of Development, and as Council Member for the Economic Sociology, and Comparative/Historical ASA Sections. She was recently appointed as Editor of *Socio-Economic Review*.

Rodrigo Canales is an Assistant Professor of Organizational Behavior at the Yale School of Management. Rodrigo researches the role of institutions in entrepreneurship and economic development. Specifically, Rodrigo's work seeks to understand how individuals purposefully enact organizational and institutional change. In particular, Rodrigo explores how individuals' backgrounds, professional status, and organizational positions affect how they relate

to existing structures and the strategies they pursue to change them. His work builds on the different traditions of institutional theory and contributes to a deeper understanding of the mechanisms that allow institutions to operate and change. Rodrigo has done work in entrepreneurial finance and microfinance. As he continues his work on microfinance he is also conducting research in the institutional complexities of renewable energy and the institutional implications of the Mexican war on drugs. Rodrigo teaches the core MBA course on innovation at Yale SOM; he sits in the steering committee of the Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at MIT; and he advises several startups in Mexico that seek to improve the financing environment for small firms. He earned his MBA and PhD from the MIT Sloan School of Management.

Nitsan Chorev is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Brown University. She is the author of *Remaking U.S. Trade Policy: from Protectionism to Globalization* (Cornell University Press, 2007) and she has just finished a book manuscript on international politics of health. Her research is directly engaged with the emerging field of Global and Transnational Sociology, as it explores, through historical analysis, the conditions that led to the rise of neoliberal economic policies and the processes that brought about the diffusion, and transformation, of those policies, both at the national and international levels.

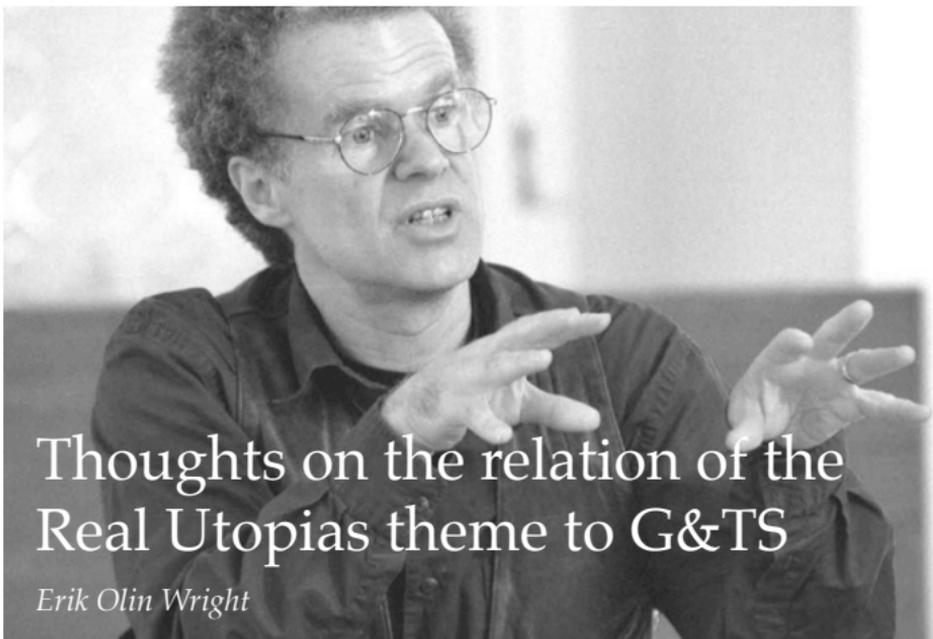
Alex Hicks, writes regularly on welfare states (e.g., ASR, 1978, CPS 1984, APSR 1992, AJS 1993, ASR 1995, Social Democracy and Welfare Capitalism 1999, Socioeconomic Review 2003). He has also written on economic policy and performance in rich democracies (e.g., ASR 1984, JOP, 1988, AJS 1998). His current research focuses on the

partisan sources of U.S. income inequality; the impact of the South on U.S. political and economic development; and the impact of international financial institutions, economists, and INGOs on economic and social policy. He was a member of the Council of the Political Sociology section of the ASA in the late 1990s and Chair for that section in 2000. He lived in Chile in 1959-1962 and in Venezuela in 1969-1971 and visited Chile in July 1971.

Sigrid Quack, Professor of Sociology, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies and University of Cologne, Germany. Has published widely on comparative institutional analysis, globalization, institutional change, and transnational governance, including articles in *Socio-Economic Review*, *Theory and Society*, *Organization Studies*, and *Organization*. Most recent book: *Transnational Communities. Shaping Global Economic Governance* (co-edited with Marie-Laure Djelic), Cambridge University Press, 2010. Current research interests: social mobilization and contention around cross-border institution building in copyright and accounting. Member (2002-6) and Chair (2006-8), Governing Board, European Group on Organizational Studies (EGOS). If elected, Sigrid would like to deepen and expand the Section's international reach and develop its on- and offline services for members and a broader public. See also http://www.mpifg.de/people/sq/publ_en.asp.

ASA is running our section's election separately as a second ballot. (This is a one-time thing because of technical difficulties in the general ASA ballot.)

Vote in both the general ASA election and in the special section election. You should have received separate email from ASA for casting the two ballots, and you will be receiving two threads of reminders.



Thoughts on the relation of the Real Utopias theme to G&TS

Erik Olin Wright

Erik Olin Wright, President-Elect, relates the theme of Real Utopias with the Global and Transnational Sociology Section.

The Global & Transnational Sociology section deals with some of the most challenging topics for sociology. Traditionally sociological research is carried out at most at the national scale (and often, in fact, is anchored in more micro-levels of analysis in which even the national context disappears). While there is a long tradition of comparative research in sociology, this is mostly cross-national – comparing national cases rather than engaging global processes as such. Only in the last few decades has the idea of a truly global level sociological analysis gained systematic traction. There is a host of issues connected to the theme of real utopias that need to be posed at this level of analysis. Here are a few:

The problem of global governance, or even global democracy. A wide range of institutions have emerged that have some kind of supra-national status

and are involved in coordinating, monitoring, or governing aspects of global interactions. A real utopias question concerns the extent to which such institutions could embody meaningful democratic mechanisms and serve social justice goals. What could a viable form of transnational democracy look like? What empirical evidence is relevant to this problem?

Global migration and the vision for open-borders. The global movement of people is obviously one critical aspect of the increasingly integrated character of social relations on a global scale. What is the real utopian design of a global migration and citizenship regime? Is it possible to imagine a stable equilibrium consisting of global capitalism, open-border migration and democratic institutions?

Ecological crises and the conditions for their solution. There is a consensus that environmental problems, especially but not only global warming, are truly global problems, and their resolution (or even

containment) requires global action. What mechanisms could be created to enforce global solutions?

Global social justice and global redistribution. What would constitute a socially just international trade regime? Just as social justice within a nation – by most accounts anyway – requires redistribution from rich to poor, can we speak of global social justice without there being global redistribution? Does global social justice require a decline in standards of living in the developed world, and if so, is there any conceivable mechanism that could accomplish this?

The emergence of a transnational social economy. The idea of the “social economy” is only in recent decades getting serious theoretical attention. Defined negatively it is economic activity that is not organized by capitalist firms, by the state, or by families. It includes a wide range of activities producing goods and services to meet needs: peer-to-peer

production of various knowledge products (wikipedia, open source software, etc.); community based service production; worker-owned cooperatives with a social mission. Some of these forms clearly have global reach: open source software is generated by peer-to-peer collaboration across the world. There are also efforts to create networks across borders of cooperatives and other unconventional economic forms to facilitate direct South-North collaboration without capitalist intermediaries.

Global social movements for social justice and the emergence of a global civil society. The World Social Forum is the most vivid example of the collaboration across borders of social movements and the constitution of something like a global civil society. There are countless transnational NGOs and some of these (a few? many?) are deeply connected to social movements and popular struggles. What are the prospects for such movements and developments? Can

they constitute a serious arena for resistance to the power of global corporations?

There are many other issues which I am sure members of the Global & Transnational Sociology section can think of that could be added to this list. My hope is that these kinds of questions get serious attention in the thematic panels at the 2012 American Sociological Association meetings. Of course, on all of these topics it is easy enough to engage in speculative, free-wheeling and relatively undisciplined discussion. From late night discussions as undergraduates to sophisticated dinners of aging academics, intellectuals are familiar

with animated discussions that mix social justice, visions of a better world, and despair at the present state of

affairs. What is much harder is to bring systematic empirical evidence and careful theoretical reasoning to



"The global movement of people is one critical aspect of the increasingly integrated character of social relations on a global scale. What is the real utopian design of a global migration and citizenship regime?"

bear on these topics, to explore and clarify the limits of our understanding rather than pretend we know more than we do, to worry about the dilemmas and trade-offs we face rather than imagine there are emancipatory alternatives to contemporary institutions which would have no negative unintended consequences. This is the weight carried by the "real" in real utopias: thinking about alternatives for a better and more just world while being fully attentive to the hazards and difficulties of how real institutions would function.



Section Information

Global and Transnational Sociology

Section Officers 2010-11

George Thomas — Chair
 Sarah Babb — Chair-Elect
 George Ritzer — Past-Chair
 Liz Boyle — Council Member
 Lauren Langman — Council Member
 Peggy Levitt — Council Member
 Francisco (Chiqui) Ramirez — Council Member
 Roland Robertson — Council Member
 Jackie Smith — Council Member
 Maria Charles and Gili Drori — Secretary/Treasurer
 Liz Boyle and David Frank — Awards
 A. Aneesh — Publications
 Malcolm Fairbrother — Website



See you in Vegas!

Contact A. Aneesh (aneesh@rym.edu) or Shehzad Nadeem ([SHEHZAD.NADEEM@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:Shehzad.NADEEM@lehman.cuny.edu)) for newsletter submissions.