PROPOSAL FOR A NEW JOURNAL OF WORLD-SYSTEMS RESEARCH EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE

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TO: Political Economy of the World-System Section (PEWS) Publication Committee, American Sociological Association

FROM: Andrej Grubacic, California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS)- San Francisco, <agrubacic@ciis.edu>

We would like to apply to serve as the editorial collective for the *Journal of World-Systems Research (JWSR)*. The proposed Editor's institution has agreed to provide ample support for the project, including a full-time graduate assistant (20 hours per week), reduced course load for the Editor, a designated office space for the journal, necessary computer and network support, and one thousand dollars annual stipend for the journal.

**Editorial Collective**

Our editorial collective consists of four scholars at various stages of their careers. **Andrej Grubacic**, Professor of Anthropology at California Institute of Integral Studies (San Francisco), will serve as Editor. Assistant Professor **Julian Francois Gerber** of International Institute of Social Sciences (The Hague) will serve as Communications and Outreach co-Editor. Assistant Professor **Michelle Glowa** of California Institute of Integral Studies (San Francisco) will serve as Communications and Outreach co-Editor. Assistant Professors **Isaac Kamola** (Trinity College) and **Alexandre White** (John Hopkins University) will serve as book review co-editors. **Rallie Murray** will serve as Managing Editor. All four have published articles related to world-systems analysis, and the Editor has authored and edited multiple books. We believe that the proposed Editorial Collective meets the expectations outlined in the call for proposals.

Professor Andrej Grubacic is the Inaugural Chair of the Anthropology and Social Change Department at CIIS-San Francisco. Following the collapse of Socialist Yugoslavia, he left for the United States. He moved to State University of New York at Binghamton where he participated in research working groups at the Fernand Braudel Center. His interest in world history and anthropology has influenced his research perspective which is focused on comparative research of societies without and against the state in the capitalist world-economy. Following Fernand Braudel, Peter Kropotkin and Marcel Mauss, he studies world history as a struggle between institutions of possessive individualism and institutions of mutual aid. His ongoing research on "exilic spaces" in the modern capitalist world-system considers how spatial expressions of
concentrated mutual aid are produced and reproduced on the outside/inside of capitalist civilization.

This research is included in his University of California Press book *Living at the Edges of Capitalism: Adventures in Exile and Mutual Aid*. Co-authored with Denis O'Hearn, the book is a winner of the 2017 American Sociological Association PEWS prize. He authored or co-authored four other books, in addition to book chapters and journal articles. He is an active participant in the World-Ecology conversation, and a member of the International Council of the World Social Forum.

Professor Julien-François Gerber is Assistant Professor of Environment and Development at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague. Prior to joining the ISS, he was at the Royal University of Bhutan (2015-16), Jawaharlal Nehru University (2012-14) and Harvard University (2010-12). He has a PhD in political ecology from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Julien-François has published on aspects of the expansion of capitalism in the rural sphere, particularly through the lenses of ownership, credit/debt, (de)commodification, conflicts, the social metabolism, plantation studies and World-Ecology. His geographic area of research includes South Asia and the Himalayan region, but he also did fieldwork in Indonesia, Cameroon and Ecuador. Besides this, Professor Gerber is interested in bridging science and activism for building more viable systems. Here, his focus has been on degrowth, theories of needs and the "good life." Last year, he was awarded an ISRF Early Career Fellowship that allowed him to work at the London School of Economics Department of Anthropology on a global ethnography of mobilizations against debts and extractivism.

Professor Glowa, the proposed Communications and Outreach Co-Editor, is an assistant professor in Anthropology and Social Change Department at CIIS. Her research interests include critical political ecology, World-Ecology, urban social movements, and agri-food studies. Michelle approaches her research with over a decade of experience working with food justice and urban agriculture organizing in the United States and Mexico. Her research contributes to a broader effort in the social sciences to study the cultures, political imaginaries, and limitations in today’s radical social movements. All these experiences have helped prepare her for the role of Communications and Outreach Editor for the journal. Michelle received her B.S. in Natural Resource Management and Political Science from Colorado State University and her PhD in Environmental Studies from University of California-Santa Cruz.
As a book review editor, Isaac Kamola is particularly interested in bringing more political scientists into the readership of *JWSR* by promoting the journal to colleagues and disciplinary listservs, as well as reviewing books—and soliciting reviewers—from political science. He is also interested in organizing book reviews around specific topics—for example, publishing a series of book reviews in the same issue that focus on a common theme, such as higher education, climate change, or African/Chinese engagements. As someone who’s first introduction to academic publishing came through writing a book review, Isaac is also interested in reaching out to professors with graduate students who might be interested in encouraging their student to review books for the journal.


Alexandre White is an Assistant Professor in Sociology and the History of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University. His work examines the social effects of infectious epidemic outbreaks in both historical and contemporary settings, as well as the global mechanisms that produce responses to outbreak. He is also an Associate Director for the Center For Medical Humanities and Social Medicine. His book project, *Epidemic Orientalism: A Social History of International Disease Response*, explores the historical roots of international responses to epidemic threats. Alexandre has published works across broad fields of both histories of race, racism and empire, as well as global health. Alexandre’s scholarly work has appeared in *Social Science History, Sociology of Development,* and *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*. As a book review editor Alexandre intends to bring fields of social science scholarship in conversation with new research in World-systems research. Alexandre intends to accomplish this through thematic book review collections that explore the connections between world-systems theory and other questions of sociological concern such as world-systems and health, world-systems approaches to the global and historical production of racisms, and imperial durabilities and the world-system.
Rallie Murray is a doctoral candidate at the California Institute of Integral Studies (San Francisco) where she has been a part of the Anthropology and Social Change Department since its inception. Her research is primarily focused on prisons as an institution of capitalist exploitation and socio-spatial manifestations of state power within the capitalist world-economy, as well as prisoner resistance movements. She has spoken about this research at the International Conference on Critical Geography in Ramallah, the 16th Annual Global Conference on Evil and Human Wickedness in Lisbon, the conference on Exile and Enclosure at Cornell University and the 5th Annual Conference of the World Ecology Research Network in San Francisco. She is co-editor and contributor of *Piercing the Shroud: Destabilizations of "Evil"* published by Brill in 2019.

**Institutional Support**

The California Institute for Integral Studies (CIIS) has agreed to provide a paid full-time graduate research assistant (20 hours per week) to serve as Managing Editor. The Editor will have a reduced course load. **Rallie Murray** will serve as Managing Editor. CIIS will also provide office space and all necessary computer and network support needed to allow the Editorial collective to conduct journal operations. The Department of Anthropology and Social Change will contribute one thousand dollars annual stipend to support the Journal. The Editor will also seek to involve additional graduate students at CIIS in the editorial process of the journal.

**Time frame**

The proposed Editor and Managing Editor will be able to start to “shadow” the current Editor and her collective in early January of 2020. The proposed editorial transition would be completed by October 1, 2020.

**Vision for the Future**

The central element of our editorial vision is a new approach to collaboration and funding. We propose to build an international network of research centers and academic departments that will work together, and in cooperation with the American Sociological Association’s Section on Political Economy of the World-System, to support *JWSR*. We believe that the best way to support an open access journal is to bypass the logic of the contemporary publication regime through the establishment of a **network of collaborating centers** that will work to strengthen
the resource base for *JWSR* while also helping support education about the importance of open access publication. This is the reason for proposing two Communication editors, one based in the United States, and the other one based in Europe.

In the same way as *JWSR* takes advantage of the opportunity to bring about changes in academic publishing through its engagement with the digital revolution, we would seek to build on ever-growing advances in communications technology to help expand global scholarly exchange and collaboration and shift how we think about world-systems research. This model helps overcome structural features of the academy and shapes a unidisciplinary project of global exchange.

This proposal will be synchronized with the emerging PEWS-IC (Interuniversity Consortium). PEWS-IC is a scholarly consortium dedicated to research and education that applies and develops the world-system perspective on political economy, development and interstate relations. The main goals of the PEWS-IC is to facilitate cross-institutional and international collaboration on curricular, training, and research projects informed by world-system analysis and to make it easier for scholars who do not have like-minded local colleagues to work with others on research projects. *JWSR* will play a central role in this transnational project of facilitation and collaboration.

**Our proposal is to transform *JWSR* into a collaborative project with “nodes” distributed across universities, libraries and research institutions in several different countries.**

These nodes would correspond with the PEWS-IC research hubs and institutional members and would participate in the development of *JWSR* by providing editorial advice and by hosting and organizing of workshops, seminars and on-going research projects. Each node would select a local representative to sit on newly established *JWSR* Advisory Board (AB). Members of the AB would liaise between their institutions the *JWSR* Editorial Collective and the *JWSR* Editorial Board. This new avenue for collaboration will help us to expand the existing database of reviewers, the promotion of world-systems scholarship and its availability to an ever wider scholarly and public audience. It will help establish closer relationships among scholars working within the field of world-systems research who are in both the Global North and the Global South.

Proposed *JWSR* events, coordinated with PEWS-IC, will include academic conferences and workshops based on themes in world-systems analysis, guest lectures, discussion groups and work-in-progress seminars. We would ask for support of member institutions in applications made for international collaboration grants to fund these and other Journal activities. We would also ask network members for an annual stipend for support of the Journal (between $500 and $1000 per institution).
Another aspect of our international vision for the journal is **translation of article abstracts** for all research articles into one or two languages. This will be coordinated by our Communication and Outreach Editors collective who will facilitate the work with volunteer translators. The OJS software (see below) allows us to add this feature to *JWSR* publication easily. As we see it, the key is to have a network of people who will assist with translating and proofing the abstracts.

The CIIS Editorial collective is strongly committed to *JWSR*’s role as an official journal of the American Sociological Association and the Political Economy of the World-System (PEWS) Section. **We propose a kind of a double movement that will increase the centrality of *JWSR* to the PEWS section and use JWSR and its extended network of readers and institutional supports to promote research produced by the Section.** We are committed to democratic section governance and to transparency of operations of the journal in section governance. We will actively seek membership participation, and we will solicit submissions of papers from PEWS and topically related sessions at the annual professional meetings (ASA, ISA, AAA, AAG). One idea that immediately comes to mind is to call for suggestions for improvement from section membership coordinated by our new Communications and Outreach Editor. On a different level of activity, it seems important to us to develop and nurture the relationship between the Journal and sector leadership. An important step in this direction would be to involve JWSR Editor as an Ex Officio member of the Council.

Both the PEWS Section and *JWSR* have long been committed to promoting collaboration between sociologists and scholars from other academic disciplines. We plan to strongly continue this interdisciplinary approach.

We believe that *JWSR* has been and should be a critical contributor of world-systems analysis in the U.S. and globally. We strongly endorse the recently revised vision statement of the ASA PEWS section. We would like to have the opportunity to build on the work of previous editorial collectives to further enhance the intellectual contributions of the journal, and to maintain the focus and scope by **publishing high quality scholarly research** on topics relevant to world-systems analysis. The journal has a long history of publishing work by leading scholars that advance world-systems analysis in theoretical, methodological, and empirical terms. But the journal has also maintained a policy of openness to works by scholars who are critical of world-systemic concepts and approaches and we will continue this open policy as part of our editorial process.

Furthermore, following a long-standing practice of *JWSR*, we would like to contribute more explicitly to the **professional development of early career PEWS scholars** and to the PEWS Section’s more recent initiative to strengthen support for scholars from the global South. We envisage two forms of mentoring. First, we would aim to solicit articles from graduate students and Assistant Professors and from and global South scholars, as well as to provide extensive feedback to these submissions that will be useful to scholars for improving their articles.
Second, as part of our effort to increase JWSR’s presence at the PEWS annual spring conference, we propose to publish (high quality) junior scholar papers as a special issue in JWSR. This would be organized in close collaboration with the conference organizers who would continue to publish the thematically focused annual volumes.

One area we would like to strongly support is social activism. All members of the proposed Editorial Collective are seasoned social movement activists. We would like to place an important emphasis on issues relevant to global social movements and world-system transformation. We want to publish the work of both activist scholars and movement activists involved in various struggles for social justice. We would aim to emphasize the “utopistic” component of the world-system tradition, with its emphasis on real utopias and alternative historical possibilities.

We plan to continue to rely on Open Journal System hosted by the University of Pittsburgh library, including the editorial, archiving and open access systems. We will also maintain the established Special Issue policies and the World Historical Information section, as well as the Community-based Research initiative. We will ask the current JWSR Editor, Jackie Smith, to join us as a member of the Editorial Board.