



SSSP Global Division Newsletter

*Social Problems and Global Issues Division of the Society for
the Study of Social Problems*

**Fall/Winter,
2020**

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Dear Global Division Members:

Hope you all are safe and well. I wanted to deliver you the fall newsletter before the winter chill surrounded us. The pandemic continues its rampage emboldened by the cold weather. Still there is some light in the horizon with the democratic victory in the US election, and the news about the vaccines. Our social problems of racist violence, unemployment, climate change all continue nevertheless, pressing us to continue with the struggle for social justice.

The 2021 All Virtual Annual Meeting of SSSP has adopted as its theme **Revolutionary Sociology: Truth, Healing, Reparations and Restructuring**. Papers can be submitted through January 31st. The Global Division is sponsoring 10 sessions, including four sole sponsored sessions focused on 1) Towards a Revolutionary Sociology: Voices for Global Justice and Healing, 2) Poverty and Inequality in the Global Context, 3) Beyond Neoliberalism: Hope, Resistance, and Transformation in the Global South, and 4) Rise of Authoritarian Regimes. Please see the details about all sessions in this newsletter. I invite you to submit papers.

I want to thank our volunteers who have agreed to serve on our Division's Graduate Student Paper Award Committee (William Cabin serving as committee chair, Andy Chang, Glenda Harrison, and Youbin Kang) and our Global Division Outstanding Book Award (Marco Garrido serving as committee chair, Manjusha Nair, Alycia Wright, Sarah Ahmed) for the coming year. I have included the full details of these awards and the submission process in this newsletter for your convenience.

I would like to urge you to consider running to be our next Division Chair. This position is open to folks at any stage in their career and the term will last from August 2021- August 2023. Please let me know if you are considering running for this position or would like to nominate someone. I would also reach out to some of you personally.

Finally, a note of thanks to Ismail Nooraddini, for his continuing support in making this newsletter possible.

Happy holidays everyone,

Manjusha



Member News



Vilna Bashi Treitler was a 2020 recipient of the Cox-Johnson-Frazier award bestowed by the American Sociological Association for scholarship in service to social justice.

Additionally, her book, *The Ethnic Project: Transforming Racial Fiction into Ethnic Fractions*, was honored by inclusion in the Zora Canon, a list of the best 100 books written by an African American Women.

Member Publications

Braun, Yvonne A. 2020. "The Human Right to Water and Sanitation in the Age of COVID-19." Pp. 61-71 in *Social Problems in the Age of COVID-19, Volume 2 - Global Perspectives*, edited by Glenn W. Muschert, Kristen M. Budd, Michelle Christian, David C. Lane, and Jason A. Smith. London: The Bristol University Press/Policy Press.

Braun, Yvonne A. 2020. "Lesotho's White Gold: The Political Ecology of Temporality and the Economy of Anticipation in Resource Extraction and Large Dam Infrastructural Projects." *Journal of Political Ecology* 27 (1): 853-876. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2458/v27i1.23250>

Ciccantell, Paul S. 2020. "Liquefied Natural Gas: Redefining Nature, Restructuring Geopolitics, Returning to the Periphery?". *American Journal of Economics and Sociology* 79(1):265-300. doi: 10.1111/ajes.12313.

Gellert, Paul K. and Paul S. Ciccantell. 2020. "Coal's Persistence in the Capitalist World-Economy: Against Teleology in Energy "Transition" Narratives." *Sociology of Development* 6(2):194-221. doi: 10.1525/sod.2020.6.2.194.

Lindio-McGovern, Ligaya. 2020. "Marxist Feminism for a Global Women's Movement Against Capitalism." In K. Fakier, D. Mulinari, and N. Rathzel (Eds.), *Marxist-Feminist Theories and Struggles Today: Essential Writings on Intersectionality, Labor and Ecofeminism*. London: Zed Books, 296-305

Lindio-McGovern, Ligaya. 2020. "Grassroots-Oriented Research As Political Engagement for Social Justice: Exposing Corporate Mining in Indigenous Contexts in the Philippines." In D. Kapoor and S. Jordan (Eds.), *Research, Political Engagement and Dispossession: Indigenous, Peasant and Urban Poor Activisms in the Americas and Asia*. London: Zed Books, 155-168.

Lindio-McGovern, Ligaya. 2021. "Neoliberalism, Fascism, and People's Resistance in the Philippines." In B. Berberoglu, (Ed.), *The Global Rise of Authoritarianism in the 21st Century: Crisis of Neoliberal Globalization and the Nationalist Response*. London and New York: Routledge, Taylor and Francis, 178-196.

Mueller, Jason C. 2020. "Political, Economic, and Ideological Warfare in Somalia." *Peace Review* 31(3): 372-280. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10402659.2019.1735174>

Mueller, Jason C. and Steven Schmidt. 2020. "Revisiting Culture and Meaning-Making in World-Systems Analysis: A Proposal for Engaging with the Cultural Political Economy Approach." *Critical Sociology*, 46 (4–5): 711–728. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0896920519856074>.

Mueller, Jason C., John McCollum, and Steven Schmidt. 2020. "COVID-19, the Vanishing Mediator, and Postcapitalist Possibilities." Pp. 181-192 *Pandemic and the Crisis of Capitalism: A Rethinking Marxism Dossier*, edited by The Editorial Collective of Rethinking Marxism. Brighton, MA: ReMarx Books. Available at: http://www.rethinkingmarxism.org/Dossier2020/19_MuellerCollumSchmidt.pdf

Schmidt, Steven, and Jason C. Mueller. 2020. "The Emergence of Participatory Budgeting in Mexico City." Pp. 286-298 in *The Routledge Handbook of Planning Megacities in the Global South*, edited by Deden Rukmana. London: Routledge. Available at: <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/e/9781003038160/chapters/10.4324/9781003038160-21>

Featured Book



[The Global Police State](#) (Pluto Press, 2020)
By William I. Robinson

Global capitalism is arguable facing the worst crisis in its history. This crisis is as much structural as it is political. Politically, capitalist states face spiraling crises of legitimacy after decades of hardship and social decay wrought by neoliberalism, aggravated now by these states' inability to manage the health emergency and the economic collapse.



The level of global social polarization and inequality is unprecedented. The richest one percent of humanity control more than half of the world's wealth while the bottom 80 percent had to make do with just 4.5 percent of this wealth. Structurally, the system faces a crisis of what is known as overaccumulation. As inequalities escalate, the system churns out more and more wealth that the mass of working people cannot actually consume. As a result, the global market cannot absorb the output of the global economy and sinks into chronic stagnation.

Global police state refers to three interrelated developments. First is the extension of transnational systems of mass social control, repression and warfare to contain the oppressed. Savage global inequalities are politically explosive and to the extent that the system is simply unable to reverse them it turns to ever more violent forms of containment to manage immiserated populations. Digitally-driven fourth industrial revolutions technologies have made possible new forces of control, including omnipresent state and private surveillance, spatial restructuring, high-tech policing, and asymmetric warfare.

Second, it refers to what I term *militarized accumulation*, or *accumulation by repression*, as a means of accumulating capital in the face of chronic stagnation. The events of September 11, 2001 marked the start of an era of a permanent global war in which logistics, warfare, intelligence, repression, surveillance, and even military personnel are more and more the privatized domain of transnational capital.

Criminalization of surplus humanity activates state-sanctioned repression that opens up new profit-making opportunities for transnational capitalists. Permanent war involves endless cycles of destruction and reconstruction, each phase in the cycle fueling new rounds and accumulation. Simply put, global police state is immensely profitable.

Third, it refers to the increasing move towards political systems that can be characterized as twenty-first century fascism. Fascist forces that bring together predatory transnational capital with reactionary and repressive power in the state (including the state's armed bodies) and a fascist mobilization in civil society are on the rise worldwide.

These three dimensions are intertwined in ways that signals a dangerous new phase in global capitalism, with its severe crisis as a backdrop, and as the world descends into a repressive totality. These dimensions come together in the so-called wars on drugs and terrorism, the undeclared wars on immigrants, refugees and gangs (and poor, dark-skinned, and working-class youth more generally), the construction of border walls, immigrant detention centers, prison-industrial complexes, systems of mass surveillance, and the spread of private police and mercenary companies. We must remember, however, that in the first instance, global police state is *reactive*; it is a response to mass revolt against the depredations of an out-of-control and crisis ridden system. My hope is that the book, alongside its scholarly contribution to critical sociology, may offer analytical and theoretical insights that contribute to mass popular struggles for social justice around the world.

Award Announcement

Student Paper Competition

Deadline: 1/15/21

The [Global Division](#) of the Society for the Study of Social Problems announces its 2021 Graduate Student Paper Competition. The goal is to encourage critical scholarship in the areas of global or transnational studies and social problems. Suggested paper topics include but are not limited to the following themes:

• COVID-19 and the Global South • Decentering Social Theory • Global Public Sociology • Political Economy and Development • Knowledge Production • Counterhegemonic Globalizations • The Politics of Human Rights • Re-imagining Community • Critical Ethnography • Immigration, Citizenship, and Global Justice • Globalization and Environmental Justice • Global Movements, Protests, and Mobilizations • Transnational Organizing within the Global South • Labor and Gender in Globalization • Families in the Global Context

Jointly authored papers are accepted; however, all contributing authors must be current graduate students at the time of submission for this award. The paper must be either unpublished or published after January 2020. The award recipient will receive student membership in the SSSP, conference registration at the 2021 Annual SSSP Meeting in Chicago, be recognized with a plaque at the SSSP Awards ceremony, and receive a \$200 prize. Award recipients are expected to present their paper at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Papers must be submitted through the SSSP [Call for Papers](#) process *and* to the e-mail address below. Papers should be accompanied by a cover letter specifying their submission as consideration for the graduate student paper competition to the Chair of Student Paper Award Committee. Please submit the paper electronically in a format compatible with MS WORD. Papers should be double-spaced and not exceed 10,000 words including citations. Authors should ensure that they receive a confirmation of receipt for their submission. Note: previous winners of this award are ineligible to compete, and students may only submit their paper to one division competition. Papers should be double-spaced and not exceed 10,000 words including citations. To be eligible for consideration, submissions must be uploaded to the [Call for Papers](#) online submission system for the SSSP Annual Meeting and must also be sent to William Cabin at wcabin@umich.edu by January 15, 2021.

Outstanding Book Award

Deadline: 3/15/21

The Global Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems is pleased to announce its 2021 Outstanding Book Award. The award is intended to recognize published work of exceptional quality in the areas of global studies and social problems and to encourage further critical scholarship in these areas. Accordingly, books on a variety of topics and themes will be considered for the award, including but not limited to the following: alternative models of globalization; global dynamics and forms of resistance to neoliberalism; transnational social movements; human rights struggles and global activism (around gender, indigeneity, migration, peace, social justice, etc.); transnational communities and cultural politics; global cities. We are particularly interested in books that link critical politics and activism with analytical and theoretical rigor.

To be eligible for consideration, books must have been published within 3 years of the meeting (2018-2021 for this year's award) and not have been nominated for this award previously. Single or multiple-authored books will be accepted, however edited collections will not be considered. At least one of the authors must be a member of the SSSP in order to qualify for the award, although they will not be required to present a paper at the 2021 Annual Meeting. Nominations can be made by members of the Global Division as well as by publishers; self-nominations are also welcomed. The winner will be recognized at the 2021 Global Division business meeting.

Nominees should first send a letter with full publication information and a paragraph outlining the reasons for their nomination to the Chair of the Global Outstanding Book Award Committee, Dr. Marco Garrido (garrido@uchicago.edu). All nominating correspondence should include "SSSP Global Division Outstanding Book Award Nomination" in the e-mail subject heading. Once your nomination letter has been received, the Award Committee Chair will confirm the mailing addresses to which copies of the book should be sent directly. Authors will be requested to facilitate with their publishers that both a physical and an electronic copy of the book (if available) be sent to each member of the award committee by the nomination deadline of March 1, 2021.

Call for Proposals

Global Division, All Virtual 2021 Annual Meeting

The Global Division solo-sponsored Sessions:

1. Towards a Revolutionary Sociology: Voices for Global Justice and Healing (critical dialogue)

Organizers: Shai Dromi & Alycia Wright

In light of recent global events — the COVID-19 Pandemic, intensifying social conflicts, and social protests, to name a few — the role of civil society organizations has come to the fore. Nonprofit organizations, faith communities, humanitarian NGOs, and their partners have worked to address these social issues and to promote justice and healing. This session invites contributions that examine new pathways in civil society activism that bear potential for remedying current global challenges. The panel will consist of five-minute presentations, followed by a critical and constructive discussion between participants.

2. Poverty and Inequality in the Global Context

Organizer: Cristian Paredes

This session invites proposals that advance knowledge on all issues of poverty and inequality in the global context. The purpose of this session is to focus on different types of poverty and inequality beyond borders using different theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches (qualitative, quantitative, mixed-methods) in order to enrich our understanding of these issues, and consequently, to discuss potential solutions. Proposals may include (but are not limited to) studies that challenge and/or redefine poverty and/or hardships as the result of unequal local development and growing disparities; studies that explain contemporary poverty, widespread inequality, and hardships as the result of significant global changes (e.g., recent capitalist dynamics, recent migration trends, the COVID pandemic, etc.); studies that identify insufficient government resources (e.g., technical expertise, political volition, budget, etc.) for developing poverty-reducing strategies; or studies that explore local differences in poverty levels, socioeconomic status, and/or other dimensions of wellbeing by gender and ethno-racial characteristics. This session especially welcomes cross-national/cross-regional studies, studies that examine transnational connections, and studies in countries/regions with low and medium levels of human development (according to the UN Human Development Report).

3. Beyond Neoliberalism: Hope, Resistance, and Transformation in the Global South

Organizer: Annie Hikido

Neoliberalism is often discussed as an inexorable force that bears down on the lives of vulnerable populations. This is especially true of studies based in the Global South, where histories of colonization have resulted in a focus on market-driven underdevelopment, precarity, and suffering. Yet the Global South is not simply a site of victimization. People devise creative strategies, adapt daily routines, and forge alliances in response to global inequalities. This session invites papers that illuminate the practices of hope, resistance, and transformation that interrupt absolutist declarations of neoliberal devastation.

4. Rise of Authoritarian Regimes (critical dialogue)

Organizer: Howard Lune

The co-sponsored sessions:

1. Being Made Vulnerable in the Era of Covid-19: Global Responses and Perspectives

Global & Health, Health Policy, and Health Services

Organizers: Josephine T. V. Greenbrook & Virginia Berndt

Across the globe, government responses to COVID-19 have had transcending impacts on societies, communities, and individuals. Concerns have been raised regarding how certain groups have been specifically disenfranchised by measures imposed due to the pandemic, in many cases resulting in a further disempowerment of those already vulnerable. In this context, this has included the elderly, women, children, essential workers, those living in poverty, racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, asylum-seekers and undocumented people, as well as healthcare professionals, among many others. We welcome extended abstracts exploring what it means to be made vulnerable in the era we find ourselves in. We wish to portray perspectives from varying contexts, as well as a range of disciplinary and methodological approaches related to health, health emergencies, healthcare services, community health, global health, health policy, health systems, bioethics, and other interdisciplinary work.

2. Labor and the Global Economy

Global & Labor Studies

Organizer: Melanie Borstad

Global networks of raw materials acquisition, manufacturing, and distribution create the landscape for competitive markets in modernity. Shifts in political and economic world power affect workers participation and autonomy in global supply chain. Limited supply of product and increased demand during a time of global pandemic have moved firms towards finding alternative practices. Recent tensions in free trade agreements contribute to this precarious employment throughout core, semi-periphery, and periphery nations amongst periods of decreased trade volumes. How have changes in consumer and corporate demands shaped a new international division of labor? How has economic growth in semi-periphery nations produced new markets in periphery nations? Have there been improvements or declines in transnational corporations' labor practices? What are ways in which organizations or nations are either upholding better standards or combating unjust labor practices? Papers in this session should aim to approach the topic of global supply chains from the perspective of the laborer and/or the impact macro-level decision-making has upon labor market outcomes. A broad investigation of global economic relations and employment conditions both domestic and international are also welcome in this paper session. Research conducted in the interaction of labor and globalization is multi-faceted and complex, allowing a rich discussion to generate from the inclusion of a wide array of levels of analysis and theoretical frameworks.

3. Gender and Global Climate Change

Global & Environment and Technology Division

Organizer: Clare Cannon

4. International Students in Higher Education (critical dialogue)

Global & Educational Problems

Organizer: Lydia Hou

5. COVID-19 and Families

Global & Families

Organizer: Sarah Ahmed

6. Space, Migration, and the (Trans)Formation of Global Inequality (critical dialogue)

Global & Poverty, Class, and Inequality

Organizer: Brooke Kelly