**GSA Alternative Globalizations Conference Abstracts**

**May 12 –14, 2006**

**DePaul University, Schmitt Academic Center, 2320 North Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, IL**

Mona Aburmishan, DePaul University

“Namibia’s Economic in Transition”

The thesis examines the Republic of Namibia’s economic policies for greater poverty since independence in 1990. While interning at the Namibian Economic Policy and Research Unit in Namibia, I plan to work directly with economists in order to examine the geo-spatial element of poverty. My hypothesis is that using Geographic Information Systems and spatial-statistical analysis software- ArcGIS, SPSS, and GeoDa, will allow me to examine and test dependent and/or independent variable trends reflected in the 1996 and 2006 National Household Income and Expenditure Surveys to determine the overall impact Namibia’s poverty policies have had in only one decade.

Ron Baiman, University of Illinois, Chicago

“The International Trade and Unequal Exchange”

This paper uses a modified three sector, two good, fixed coefficient, Roemerian model, first developed by Hahnel (1999), to analyze the effects of different international trading regimes on north south trade. Perfectly competitive "Free Trade" leads to "unequal exchange" that delivers all of the benefits of trade to the north resulting in increasing global inequality and relative poverty in the south and greater inequality and unemployment in the north. Hahnel's version of "Fair Trade" eliminates international inequality but preserves a global division of labor that limits long term development. A "Global Marshall Plan" and "Developmental Trade" with a "Solidarity Trading Regime" would allow for balanced and sustainable long-term development and mutually beneficial global trade for the south and the north.

Manuel Freire Barcia

“Society of Cities, Regions and Borderland: A Roadmap to the Iberian-American Dream”

COMBAR has been engaged for the last thirty years in regional and borderland integration issues in the Venezuelan Andean Region bordering with Colombia. Through this work, it has developed significant amounts of information, up-to-date contacts and experience in the search of a new model of regional and borderland sustainable economic development involving governments, universities, productive sector, labor and non-government organizations (NGO’s). Currently, we are focusing on a concrete proposal of “Sustainable Regional and Borderland Economic Development Pilot Program” in the geographical settings of Venezuela-Colombia in order to compare experiences with other selected regions of Iberian-America, especially with crossing borders between the State of Chihuahua (Mexico and the State of Texas (USA) and the Mid West Region targeting Illinois in the first stage of the integration process. In the Colombian-Venezuelan borderland, COMBAR detected the following priorities:1.- Tourism; 2.- Integrated Food Chains Systems; 3.- Rational handling of hydrographic rivers basins, including water, soil, forest resources and eco-systems of biological diversity.

We expect universities to assume a crucial role in the process of developing a viable “Agenda as a Road Map” toward the formation of new municipal governance, decentralization, cultural values, and cadres to orchestrate the changes needed to confront globalization, strengthening institutions, building coalitions and synergies, enhancing community participation through education, (workshops, forums, conferences, debates, etc) in the context of new global realities and anticipated political trends. ” In this regard we are preparing a research-outreach proposal aimed at linking universities with policy makers, entrepreneurs and Civil Society as a multidisciplinary and inter-institutional paradigm.

Turgay Bayindir, Purdue University

“The Emergence of ‘Gay’ Identity as a Product of Recent Globalization in Turkey”

The publication of Escinsel Erkekler (Homosexual Men) in 2002 was an important event in Turkey since intimate accounts of homosexual men were being made public. An analysis of the interviews collected in this book shows that homosexuality as a sexual identity is a recent phenomenon in Turkish culture. Before 1980s, it was considered only as a sexual act conducted strictly along the binary of “active” straight men and “passive” males who are not considered “men.” Most of the men interviewed belong to the generation that saw Turkey’s first attempts to be “westernized” by applying to become a member of the European Union. Their testimonies reveal that the recent change in the conception of male homosexuality in Turkey is directly related to the new liberal government’s open-door policy to globalization, which is symbolized by Turkey’s first application to the EU for membership in 1987. However, there are also specifically Turkish factors influencing the globalization of sexual identities, resulting in a co-existence of old and new conceptions of homosexuality in contemporary Turkish culture.

Jason Willhoite Bell, DePaul University

“Mali and the Doha Development Round”

This panelist’s presentation will focus on Mali’s situation as it stands in negotiations with the World Trade Organization. Current WTO issues of major concern to Mali, including cotton subsidies and an overall trade deficit, will be given particularly close attention. The presentation will explore the potential allies that Mali has in negotiations, and will put forth recommendations for future action in the concluding months of the Doha Round of negotiations.

Luis Berruecos, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco

“Alcohol consumption patterns and the effects of globalization in an Indian Mexican Community”

In Mexico, the recent establishment of the maquila industry in the surroundings of an Indian community in Mexico, has provoked the homogenisation/ westernization of lifestyles, values and cultural representations in suggested outcomes - such as cultural resistance, re-invention, indigenization or creolization as socio-cultural consequences of globalization, such as the re-shaping people’s everyday lifestyle experiences, such as alcohol consumption, and the adverse effects and consequences on an emergent cosmopolitanism on social and cultural life that facilitates the migration of cultural meanings and practices from one place to another. Currently, there are more than 2,100 industries in Mexico and 16% of the labour force in the manufacturing industry are located in the maquila. The strategy followed by the maquila industry is very clear within the process of globalization of world economies through intensive production of capital in industrialized countries, whereas the intensive production in generalized scale is done in pheripherical countries where wages are low. Transnational companies have fewer taxes to pay, and they transfer their models of technology to maquila countries where the owners also own the capital.

In the city of Teziutlán in the northern State of Puebla, Mexico, and its surroundings close to the Indian village where I have been working in the last 37 years, there are around 300 maquila industries. Most of them produce clothing of different kinds for exportation. Most of the people that work in the maquila industry are from Teziutlán and surrounding small cities. Since Teziutlán is only exporting low cost wages, there are local systems of control of these industries through the Ministry of Finance, the Local Chamber and the Municipality, but there no longer is easy to find workers for the field in agricultural activities since people prefer to work in the maquilas and the cost of living is higher than before.

In this essay, I will analyze the effects of globalization via the installation of maquila industries, in the socio cultural aspects of the members of an Indian community in Mexico, specially, paying attention on the transformation of alcohol consumption patterns of the inhabitants of this particular Indian village.

Lina Beydoun, Wayne State University

“Examining Lebanese Migration within a Global Framework”

Does a global framework contribute to the understanding of the lives of Lebanese immigrants? Does the host country influence how Lebanese immigrants think globally? Providing examples from a case study of Lebanese immigration to Sierra Leone, I argue that Lebanese form global networks that provide economic and political strategies, including “laissez-faire” attitudes toward emerging global markets, compatible with neo-liberal forms of globalization. I conclude that a global framework allows for more than a transnational bi-polar vision of home and host country, and incorporates an individual identity.

Robina Bhatti, California State University, Monterey Bay

“Alternative to Global Capital: Global South as an Ecological Creditor”

This paper adopts an ‘ecological political economy’ approach, an alternative perspective on globalization to examine issues of global finance and debt. The South-South movement initiated by global South constructs global North as an ecological debtor and global South as an ecological creditor. Prevailing scholarship understands ecological debt as ecological damage caused over time, to ‘other’ ecosystems, places, and people through production and consumption patterns. A global coloniality perspective asserts that global South, given the exploitation of its peoples, places and resources throughout the history of a global economy is an ecological creditor as opposed to being in financial debt to global North. We engage postcolonial understandings of Asian, African and Latin American scholars to re-examine questions of extraction, production, waste, distancing, and consumption as they are related to issues of race, class, gender in the construction of ‘globalization’. The paper draws upon ‘alternate’ notions of what it means to be ‘global’ from the rich history of resistance to global capital in global South.

Scott Byrd, University of California, Irvine

“The spaces between: Alternative globalizations as radically restructured social relations”

By analyzing instances of ‘alternative globalizations’, autonomous farming communities, Argentinean worker coops, World Social Forums, and the Movemento Sem Terra, I seek to determine tactical and strategic uses of relational spaces to disempower the forces of global capitalism. I propose a framework for examining forms of alternative globalizations based on relational interconnected spaces—real and corporeal. This radical restructuring of social relations represents an ‘alternative’ not only in the sense that it challenges the legitimacy of the neo-liberal project, but also employs counter social logics and relational schemas anchored in cultural representations characterized by self-organizing systems, horizontal networking, and a politics of flux/tension.

Dominique Charles, DePaul University

“Haiti and the Doha Development Round”

Since 1986, Haiti has fully liberalized its economy by applying structural adjustment programs under the “guidance” of international financial institutions, which has made it one of the most liberalized markets of the Least Developed countries (LDCs). Nevertheless, instead of increasing growth, trade liberalization has led to a decline of agricultural, manufacture and services industries. Therefore, Haiti is taking the opportunities offered by the Doha trade round and the NAMA trade negotiations to ask for an end of trade subsidies, and for assistance and cooperation from international organizations to improve the capacity of LDCs to argue for their positions and implement the agreements. The non-reflective fiction that created friction: Anti-WTO protest and media coverage in Seattle.

Bobby Chen, University of California, Irvine

“The non-reflective fiction that created friction: Anti-WTO protest and media coverage in Seattle”

Can we expand our understanding of the concept and instantiation of the multitude by examining the point of contact between the multitude against empire/sovereignty? In this paper I present a case on the content of the cultural form (mass media) by examining the irreflexive nature of the dominant storytelling vis-a-vis binary code. I argue that media narrative on the multitude was not offered as a closed book in the first instance, contrary to theories of empire, but developed over the course of the WTO event. The discursive field was at first, relatively open and concluded with a frustration/anger narrative.

David Cormier, West Virginia University and Harry Targ, Purdue University

“Political Economy of Precarious Classes Formation in Latin America & the Caribbean”

The paper examines the formation of “precarious classes” as defined by Samir Amin in Latin America and the Caribbean and its possible connection to neoliberal globalization. It focuses on the process of impoverishment as a labor market outcome and uses segmented labor market theory (Cambridge, UK version) to explain empirical findings. Empirical evidence of impoverishment in the region is obtained from ILO and other databases. In light of these findings, a proposed model of a mechanism for the formation of precarious classes is offered based on the political economy of the region under neoliberal globalization.

Michael Curtin, University of Wisconsin-Madison

“Media Capital: The Cultural Geography of Global Communication”

Until the 1990s, film and television studies tended to focus on media practices as contained within the regulatory, cultural, and economic environs of the nation-state. International media studies maintained similar respect for state sovereignty by primarily attending to the exchange of cultural products between nations or producing comparative studies of national cinemas and media systems. More recently, however, scholars are relinquishing the metaphor of national containers, choosing instead to theorize the ways in which contemporary media are transcending frontiers and disrupting conventional structures of operation. This presentation offers a theoretical framework for analyzing locations of media production and patterns of circulation in an increasingly global media environment. It employs “media capital” as a concept that both explains the geographical dynamics of contemporary media and the regime of accumulation that governs the operations of media industries.

Simone Cavalcante DaSilva, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“Queer Tourism in Rio: A Queer Utopia?”

This paper aims to analyze the state of the queer community in Brazil and its visibility through the scope of queer tourism. As the main determinant for this analysis, queer tourism may function in contemporary times as a kind of 'thermometer of progressiveness and modernity ’ in relation to a nation's political discourse. Within this scope, I focus on contradictions found between the view of Brazil, and most specific the city of Rio de Janeiro, as a gay paradise and the real conditions of acceptance and recognition of these transgressive sexualities as sexual citizens.

Deepanwita Dasgupta, University of Minnesota

“Ends of Modernity and the Alternative Science Debate in India”

With the European expansion and its consequent companion, colonialism, a new set of methods about investigating nature was transmitted to the colonies. Backed by a suitable ontology scientific knowledge-- this new methodology claimed to supersede all other local knowledge systems. After the independence of 1947, this methodology was retained by the newly emerging Indian nation state along with its old colonial medium of transmission the English language. The resulting project of modernization over the next fifty years has however come under severe fire in the recent decades. Faced with the problematic consequence of the development ideal-- whether in ecology or in human resources-- scholars within the Indian science studies have often argued for a new kind of ideal-- an alternative science that will reject, or at least provincialize, the western scientific method. In this paper, I examine the implications of such a claim in the Indian context. What, indeed, would be the shape of such an alternative science and how will it re-structure the directions of modernity in a non-western society like India? What kind of different projects will be inspired by such an alternative ideal? Finally, does such a view really authorize a program of going backwards as some scholars recently have suggested in their work?

Javier Vazquez D'Elia, University of Pittsburgh

“Problems of Democratization in Global Civil Society”

The goal of this paper is to discuss some theoretical limitations that constitute a common background of a set of authors that approach the problem of democratization at a global level through the notion of Global Civil Society. My focus will be neither on analyzing whether the concept of global civil society has been adequately constructed or utilized, nor on assessing whether it provides the best theoretical tool in order to deal with the question of global democracy. Instead, I will be centering my discussion on the problems that the authors who rely on it experience when faced with the tasks of analyzing the impact that the phenomena they identify as conducive to the constitution of a globalcivil society may eventually have in terms of changes of transnational power relationships and of democratization. My conclusions do not entail denial neither of the relevance of the development of forms of transnational collective action, nor of the democratizing effects that that development may bring. I contend, however, that both relevance and democratic condition cannot be assumed, but need to be demonstrated, and that requires the development of theoretical tools for the analysis of transnational forms of power, of an empirical theory of global democratization, and of normative foundations for democracy in a context of globalization.

Ann Ferguson, Professor, University of Massachusetts /Amherst

“Women, Globalization and Global Justice”

This paper compares liberal, social democratic and radical theories of social justice in the context of social movements against corporate globalization, with particular regard to issues of women’s oppression and women’s activism. It argues that a new concept of justice as solidarity is emerging from alternative political and economic spaces created by globalization from below projects, within which political and practical projects for women’s empowerment are key. Images are shown of women activists whose projects promote all three types of social justice.

Stephen Gasteyer, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

“Competing Coalitions and Corporate Privatization of Municipal Water Supply”

This paper will use a comparative case approach to understand the role of coalitions that link local, regional, national and international actors in battles over municipal privatization in developing countries. Looking at case studies from Bolivia, Tanzania, Ghana, and the Philippines, the author will discuss the outcomes in terms of water system ownership and management to date in each of these cases and provide explanations of the factors that have led to these outcomes.

Zsuzsa Gille, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“The Tale of the Toxic Paprika: The Hungarian Taste of Euro-Globalization”

In the Fall of 2004, the Hungarian government banned paprika, the hallmark national spice, from grocery stores and restaurants and warned the public not to use their own until further notice. As it turned out, a carcinogenic mold had been found in this pride of Hungarian cuisine. This came as a shock not only because such a microtoxin could only survive in pepper products from the Mediterranean and Latin-America, thus questioning just how Hungarian the paprika that is sold all over the world as a “Hungaricum” is, but also because the elaborate quality and hygiene standards food producers had to adopt already two years before accession to the European Union were thought to prevent exactly these types of dangers to public health. The case exemplifies the tug of war between two opposing tendencies of Euro-globalization: the race to the bottom (the unchecked flow of goods in the name of free trade and producers’ preference for the cheapest raw materials) and the race to the top (the imposition of newer and newer standards on EU-constituent producers and consumers as a way to protect domestic markets and local and regional brands). In this paper, I argue that in the EU, 'race to the top' and 'race to the bottom' have synergistically congealed into a third model, which, with the help of theories of neoliberalism as governmentality I conceptualize as Euro-globalization. The analysis of this model raises new questions about the role of culture and national identity in globalization and about the operationalization of freedom. The research for this paper is based on interviews with auditors, food producers and consumers and the analysis of expert studies, newspaper accounts and official documents.

Karen Bettez Halnon, Penn State Abington

“Beyond 'Bourgeois Democracy' and 'Masochistic Conformity'”

Herbert Marcuse wrote in 1972: "The Left must realize that never before was the power and the mass base of the ruling class as large as it is in the USA today, and never as ready to use this power with all available means. It is sustained by the sadomasochistic conformism of the people." Applying these observations to the present historical moment, this paper addresses two issues: (1) the extent to which the State reflects and reinforces the political economic interests of a power elite aimed at US global military pre-eminence, and a supporting set of proto-fascist domestic policies; and (2) the extent to which the general public has acquiesced, at its own expense, to the imposition of "bourgeois democracy", both internationally and domestically. Of particular concern are impediments to energizing college and university youth as harbingers of social change, and possible means of redirecting aggressive masochistic energies onto their proper targets.

Jerry Harris, DeVry University, Chicago

“Dialectical Democracy: the State, Market and Civil Society”

Far from the “end of history” the twenty-first century has witness the birth of widespread alternatives to neo-liberal capitalism. These new political struggles create the mass experience, practice and consciousness that will help determine the future course of global society. Key to understanding this process is the linked relationship of the state, market and civil society, and the necessity of building counter-hegemonic forces and contesting for power in each area. Latin America, particularly Venezuela, Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil and Mexico are all producing rich experiences for rebuilding a left alternative to neo-liberalism.

Dale R. Howard, NorthWest Arkansas Community College

“Ideology, Globalization, and Educational Policy”

Since the late 1990s, and especially with the publication of John Levin's book Globalizing the Community College (NY: Palgrave, 2001), "globalization" has become the new buzz word in all of higher education. It has become a new ideology, and, like all ideologies, one that is promoted and touted by transnational corporate interests. Much like the public relations approach to public policy today ("Clear Skies Initiative," "No Child Left Behind," "The Patriot Act") the oft-repeated word "globalization" becomes not only entrenched as the "new reality" but also one that is hard to disagree with or question, even if one may be unclear exactly what it means or entails. After considering anecdotal information (asking faculty and students at my institution: What is globalization?) I explore the following in this presentation: (1) What is the reality of globalization? (2) How many (faculty, especially) in the community college take a critical look at the word, or go beyond such analyses as "the accelerated pace of change," "greater interconnection of the world", or, the favorites, "diversity" and "multiculturalism"? (3) Finally, I analyze the questions: What is ideology? What is the ideology of corporate globalization? How does this affect educational policy?

Jin-Ho Jang, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

“Approaching Neoliberalism as Financial Hegemony - The Case of South Korea”

This study addresses the post-1945 history and dynamics of neoliberalism on a global scale focusing on such issues as a hegemonic state, global finance, and subject-(re)production in the neoliberal governmentality. Studies of neoliberalism can be classified into three-groups according to those groups’ different understandings of neoliberalism: ‘economic ideology’, ‘state policy’, or ‘governmentality’. The core dynamics of the global movement of neoliberalism is reflected in ‘financialization’, i.e., hegemony of liquid money-capital over productive capital, which is related to the current spread of neoliberalism across national-borders. Historically, this financialization is termed as the “second financial hegemony” (Duménil & Lévy, 2004), or the “US hegemonic cycle of financial expansion” (Arrighi, 1994). Thus, for examining neoliberalism as the resurgence of global finance, the study of a hegemonic state is required. According to Helleiner (1996), neoliberal financial hegemony has been established as the outcome of ‘domestic politics’ in the US, that is, a victory of New York financial communities over the New Deal alliance until the 1970s. With deregulations in the financial sector, the free movement of money-capital has exercised financial hegemony over the business sector domestically and globally by shaping the hegemonic neoliberal bloc that consists of the ‘private financial’ sector, the ‘government’ sector, and the ‘epistemic’ sector. This study pays critical attention to the role of transnational institutional investors (TIIs), who are mainly based in the US or the UK, in the global (re)production of neoliberalism (Harmes, 1998). Above all, the shareholder value ideology for good corporate governance has been instrumental in the role and activities of TIIs toward neoliberalization worldwide. Based on this specific understanding of the history and dynamics of neoliberalism, the last half of this study examines the case of South Korea’s recent neoliberalization.

Richard Knecth, University of Toledo

“American and Chinese Intellectual Copyright Law, Variants and Perspectives”

The proposed paper will examine a brief history of copyright in the United States and its intention to protect the intellectual property of creators as recognized in the Constitution which stipulates: " to promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors he exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries." Although the law has survived for well over two hundred years, during that time Congress has attempted to clarify and codify the privileges entitled to those authors who should receive protection for their labor earned by the "sweat of his brow." Both in 1909 and 1976 the Copyright Law was rewritten to come of age with technological advancement. Since the last complete rewrite, both Congress and the courts have had to make changes in the law to accommodate such innovations as cable, satellite transmission, the capability of home recording devices, a variety of software packages and most recently the Internet. Although the Digital Millennium Copyright Act was passed in 1998 to protect new technologies in addition to the Internet, the law like any other falls behind technological advancement. This critical point will be explored and explained in the proposed paper.

Edward A. Kolodziej, Director Center for Global Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

“Why Global Studies Plotting an Intellectual Jailbreak”

Four propositions provide a necessary if insufficiently complete and comprehensive rationale for global studies programs. First, and increasingly, fundamental problems of deep and universal concern to humans everywhere can be resolved or managed only if they are addressed — simultaneously and synchronously — at local, national, regional, and global levels by relevant actors. Second, the scope of these global and globalizing problems evidences the emergence of a global society for the first time in the evolution of the species. Third, the description, explanation, and understanding of globalization, evidenced by the deepening and enlarging problems posed by a world society, require dedicated interdisciplinary and interprofessional programs of study.

The obverse to this proposition, fourth, is that the current diffuse and decentralized organization of educational programs and disciplinary units across the academy at all levels is ill-suited — in some instances a serious impediment — to the study of globalization and to the discovery of ways to employ and deploy the forces unleashed by globalization for human good or, conversely, to limit and frustrate the damage they do.

Subbu Kumarappan, Michigan State University

“Implications of Economic Externalities for Globalization”

With globalization, the countries are becoming closer and the traditional boundaries are being redefined. The principles established by the traditional neo-classical economics featuring self-maximization agents have many implications for the overall impact of globalization and its ex-post perceptions. This paper analyzes the impact of externalities where one region or state’s growth can negatively impact the other state resulting in less overall gains. The paper contrasts the welfare gains from neo-classical economics and the welfare from globalization in an alternative ‘one-world’ government. The eventual globalization outcome of the one-world government is also explored through the ethical and philosophical arguments.

Victor Lang, DePaul University

“Nostalgia and Nationalism: Social and Cultural Change in post-Revolutionary China”

New demands put in place by market-oriented reforms have created or modified cultural and social norms in China. With globalization and international flows of goods, capital and ideas, change in China has intensified. This paper describes evolving consumption habits, symbolizing changing meanings and ideas within Chinese society. Looking at those who lived through the Cultural Revolution era, consumption of nationalistic and patriotic experiences through travel and tourism is one way of reliving nostalgia. For those born during the Reform Era (today¹s Chinese youth), one manner nationalism and pride is cultivated is through the consumption of technology and the Internet.

Lauren Langman, Loyola

“CyberSpace Democracy: Hope or Hype”

The growth and power of Neo-Liberal Global Capital at it triumphant moment of market integration has depended on vast computer based networks of information flows to perform the command, control and co-ordination functions required of a new deterritorialized, global market. Yet domination fostering alienation, pain and suffering fosters resistance. The same Internet based systems that transmit financial and market information, also enable and empower a variety of forms of resistance. The computer based expressions of progressive mobilization might be termed "cyber democracy", seen in such ways as Global Justice Movements and leftward trends from India to South American.

Mehrene Lauredee, DePaul University

“Not trade but VADE (Value Added Destined for Export): issues in measuring openness and its economic impact”

The ratio trade/GDP, typically used as a measure of a country's openness, is a ratio of apples and oranges: the numerator is measured in gross value of output, the denominator as value-added. Differences in trade/GDP between countries may reflect a difference in the ratio of value added to gross value of output, rather than a true difference in the importance of trade-oriented productive activity in the economy. A different measure is more appropriate and revealing: the ratio VADE/GDP, where VADE is (domestic) value added destined for export. The effect of the two different measures on discussions of openness and its effect on growth is discussed.

Timothy W. Luke, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

“An Unwanted World: The Processes of Global Warming, Global Dimming, and Global Cooling as an Alternative Globalization”

This study asks how the inchoate workings of contemporary urban industrial production and consumption leave noxious by-products, like the atmospheric changes that have been socially created as "global cooling," "global dimming," or "global warming," also are now alternatives for globalization. If the "greenhouse effect" is real, then are "the effects in the greenhouse" allowing us to set about reconstructing Nature in a manner rarely addressed by most global or environmental criticism? While a few radical geographers approach these effects as "socio-nature" or "techno-nature," this analysis argues these changes are so rapid, profound, and fundamental that a new kind of environment, or an "urbanatura," essentially is emerging as another "greenhouse effect." And, its alternative materialities, as the recent exurban/urban/suburban re-engineering of Nature in and around the Lower Mississippi coupled with the heightened frequency and intensity of Atlantic Basin hurricanes show, now constitute unstable background conditions that can confound human responses due to their predictable unpredictabilities. Consequently, common notions about what the Earth's "environment" has been understood as, and how "environmentalists" must organize for its defense locally and globally, require some foundational reimagination, once one recognizes how much anthropogenic processes, or greenhouse effects, actually are creating unwanted alternatives in globalization for the entire planet.

Amal Madibbo, University of Toronto, Canada

“The Crisis in Darfur/Sudan, Race, Gender, Oil and Weapons: What Can’t We Do?”

The three-year conflict in Sudan’s western region of Darfur forced over two million people to flee their towns to live in refugee camps. Thousands are thought to have died during the crisis and hundreds of rape incidents have been reported. This paper examines various local and global imperial, historical, racial, gender, economic and political factors that led to and help to maintain the current crisis in Darfur. It suggests how alternative globalizations could critically reflect upon and respond to what has been described as the world’s worst humanitarian crisis and is believed to be the first genocide of the 21st century.

Matias E. Margulis, McMaster University, Canada

“The Impact of WTO Export Subsidy Commitments on International Food Aid”

This paper examines the relationship between international food aid Deliveries and World Trade Organization (WTO) trade rules. While food aid’s domestic economic and political determinants are well understood, the effects of international trade rules on food aid are less so. Food aid has historically been driven by agricultural policy objectives; WTO trade negotiations have sought to restrict such practices. The author finds that Uruguay Round agricultural export subsidy reductions constrained traditional export policies, giving rise to the further use of international food aid to meet domestic agricultural objectives. This trend is exacerbated under arrangements where agricultural departments have authority over food aid decision-making. Moreover, increases of surplus disposal driven food aid appear to contradict and undermine efforts to ensure a recipient-oriented food aid regime and rights-based approaches to food security. The implications of Doha Round agreement to eliminate of all agricultural export subsides are also addressed.

Ligaya Lindio McGovern, Indiana University

“A Critical Analysis of the Current Philippine Government’s Crackdown on Progressive Elements in the Context of Neo-Liberal Globalization and the Dialectics of Resistance.”

This paper offers a critical analysis of the current Philippine Gloria Macapaga-Arroyo regime’s crackdown on progressive movements, groups, and oppositional elements within the context of neo-liberal globalization and the Filipino people’s local and international responses. This scenario offers a context of analyzing the dynamics of resistance within a neo-colonial state impinged upon by neo-liberal politics that entangle with militarism. What insights does this scenario offer in re/conceptualizing neo-liberal globalization? What lessons can be learned from the people’s movements to defend their collective power as the state resorts to fascist tactics to destroy it? Where lies the potential for bringing about a more fundamental change that will address the structural roots of poverty, unemployment, and social injustice in a Third World nation, like the Philippines?

Evan McKay, DePaul University

“China and the Doha Development Round”

Since joining the World Trade Organization in 2001, China has not played a large role in multilateral trade negotiations. China seems willing to let other nations do most of the bargaining and asks for concessions near the end of negotiations. This pattern is not likely to change during the on-going Doha Round negotiations, despite pressure from the United States that China play a more prominent role. China is likely to yield concessions on services and market access for manufactured goods during this round, in exchange for a reduction in agricultural support by the US, Europe, and Japan.

Rini Bhattacharya Mehta, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

“Tradition, Migration, and Globalization: Real/Screen Faces/Voices of Globalized India”

The focus of this panel is the fine balance between the postcolonial, post-globalization political reality of a country as heterogeneous and complex as India and the aestheticized representations of it in one of its longest living industries: popular cinema. The politics and ideology of Indian commercial cinema have always been complex, and have always offered an interesting case-study for students of Global Culture. In the post-globalization years, the composite art form of Indian Popular Cinema has experienced noticeable changes, in both form and content. While the ‘identity of the nation-state’ has been re-configured in the aftermath of India’s economic liberalization and its steady political rise, of particular interest to the panelists is the re-positioning – in post-globalization Indian Cinema – of ‘individual identity’ vis-à-vis nation, religion, class, and gender. As the definition of “nationhood” and/or community has become much more fluid, keeping in tune with the sweeping universal claims of globalization, the individual point of view a propos the nation has been rounded off, its rough edges smoothed and smothered by the greater ideology of a new, ‘global nationhood.’ It does not matter any more if the locale is New Delhi or London or New York: the Indian individual is almost always perfectly ‘at home.’ The amount of exclusion, marginalization, and re-alignment involved in the above representation is easily imaginable.

Rini Bhattacharya Mehta, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

“Bride and Immigration: the Problem of the Idealized Expatriate”

Bride and Immigration: the Problem of the Idealized Expatriate will focus on another area of marginalization and re-writing: the depiction of immigration and immigrants of Indians into the First/Free/Western World. Exploring several films including Gurinder Chadha’s Bride and Prejudice (2004), Mehta will unpack the dual mystique of the immigrant “other” in two loci: the immigrants’ point of origination (in this case, India) and their destination/adopted homeland (most frequently a Western metropolitan location). How are the immigrant’s ‘origin’ and the ‘destination’ presented? Why is there little or no mention of the socio-economic imbalance that exists between the two worlds? What is the ideological need for glorifying both India and the West? What is the ‘selling point’ for the above representations.

Dr. William Mello, Indiana University

“Education, Work and Globalization”

Within the context of an increasingly globalized world, technological advances have entwined the process of education with the workplace in ways in which educators are only beginning to comprehend. Both the educational structure and the workplace are undergoing radical transformations driven by the process of technological change. In Latin America the demand for rapid technological transformations as the foundation for reducing high levels of economic inequality are imposing deep transformations in the educational structures of nations that ultimately reinforce elite socioeconomic relations. In this sense education and work has become the object of social, economic and political concerns within the process of global transformation. An essential aspect of this process is the development of intricate and underlying relations between work and education, driven in large part by the expansive nature of global economic interests. An immediate and recognizable effect of this process is the advance of multifaceted, transformative relations, (driven in large part by elite economic interests), between education and the workplace, which define what, when and how workers learn and their access to, as well as questioning the very purpose of education. At the center of this process is the prevalence of neo-liberal political and economic structure that juxtaposes values and norms of individual achievement in detriment to the view that education and work are two of the three fundamental rights of man that must be made available to all.

Paul C. Mocombe, Florida Atlantic University

“The Gentrification of Africa in the Contemporary Capitalist World-System”

Since Independence, the billions of dollars poured into Africa have been funded through African governments, many of which are seen as corrupt. It is clear that the money they have received have been misused, the main concern is that most of the money given so far has simply not been enough, has not reach those most in need, and has contributed to Africa’s indebtedness. Recently, Western nations led by Great Britain have begun a campaign for debt relief and more aid for African governments. This response, given the track records of African governments, as I intend to argue in this article, is not an altruistic attempt by Western nations to provide more money to relieve poverty amongst the African masses. On the contrary, it is a neoliberal capitalist strategy (dependent development) to (re)marketize the labor and land resources of indebted African territories for the sole aim of capital accumulation as the continent is moved from periphery to semi-periphery status. This process, I conclude, parallels the gentrification process that has plagued inner-city communities throughout core nations of the contemporary capitalist world-system.

Aniruddha Mtra and Susan M. Jellissen, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

“Manipulating Discontent: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism”

Is suicide terrorism a product of religious extremism? Scholars such as Iannaccone (2003) and Berman and Laitin (2004) contend that it is, while others such as Pape (2003, 2005) and Bloom (2005) deny the primacy of the religious motive. We investigate the rationale for suicide terrorism in an economic model of conflict, where the strategic value of suicide terrorism to a terrorist organization arises out of a fundamental informational asymmetry between the organization and an incumbent regime. Thus, religious extremism is neither necessary nor sufficient to explain why terrorist organizations employ suicide terrorism. Our model also explains why the tactic is often directed at the very population the organization purports to represent, rather than at the incumbent regime exclusively. Lastly, we relate suicide terrorism to the issue of radicalization of a subject population, thereby contributing to and forming a bridge between two different literatures. We conclude with a review of empirical evidence in support of our position.

Ian Muhlhauser, University of Chicago

“Beyond Pluralism: Toward a New Model of Global Religion”

One of the results of the rise of globalization is religious pluralism, which serves as an alternative to religious exclusivism. This paper will examine cases in which certain sociological models of pluralism cannot provide the basis to resolve inter-religious tensions. A proposal will be introduced for a reformulation of the project of pluralism, which must include changes in economic and education policy. Further, a new model will be introduced to approach the conflicts and tensions that arise from religious diversity.

Reshmi Mukherjee, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

“Nation and Its Outcasts: Marginal Figures in on the Indian Screen”

The presentation will examine the mainstream cultural representations of marginal figures of the postcolonial bourgeois socio-polity. Taking Alice – the Christian house-maid in Mira Nair’s Monsoon Wedding (2001) – as her start-off point, Mukherjee will discuss the broader implications of the selective presence of the poor/outcast characters in stories where the main protagonists are always bourgeois. While the ‘servants,’ most of them coming from rural backgrounds, had always a screen presence in the Indian films of the 1970’s and the 80’s, they have evolved alongside their employers. The post-globalization films have begun to portray a different, globalized India with the neo-capitalist bourgeoisie flush with earnings from their international ventures, and the marginal subaltern characters have been cleverly reconfigured in the new economy. Bollywood has perhaps successfully re-written the relationship between the bourgeois and the subaltern in the liberalized economic predicament.

Shaila Noronha, DePaul University

“Indonesia and the Doha Development Round”

The past 15 years Indonesia has taken substantive steps towards liberalizing the economy and integrating into the world economy. The balance of payments reflects an increasing trade surplus, yet several studies correlate liberalization with declining incomes in the population. Indonesia is reluctant to take further steps in liberalizing without first achieving competitiveness. Indonesia’s position as the leader of the G-33 is to advocate on behalf of developing countries for agricultural reform that allows special and differential treatment for designated products and market access in developed countries. Doha negotiations need to allow ‘less than full reciprocity’ for developing countries.

John O’Connor, Central Connecticut State University

“The European Anti-Capitalist Left Conference: Toward a New Political Force?”

For the past few years, the European Anti-Capitalist Left (EACL) conference has attempted to forge a new European political force out of radical, anti-imperialist currents in several different countries. This broad, pluralist recomposition project has assembled a diverse group of parties and organizations that aspire to develop a coherent political identity and program, mold electoral alliances and blocs, and create an anti-capitalist, socialist alternative. This paper examines the emergence of the EACL in the new international context of resistance to neo-liberal globalization and the struggle against European Union, and highlights the new thinking of revolutionary struggle in Europe today. The paper also considers the EACL vis-à-vis the historic crisis in European politics, especially the neo-liberal degeneration of Social Democracy and the collapse of Stalinist Communist parties. Finally, the paper evaluates the possibilities and challenges that the EACL faces in the years ahead, taking special note of the creation of the European Left Party and the feasibility of radical parties and organizations taking a responsibility in helping mobilizations succeed and contesting elections.

Brian Orend, University of Waterloo

“Health as a Human Right in the Globalized World”

An emerging field in international ethics and public policy is called "health and human rights." While prominent in France, Switzerland and the United Nations system, it is just beginning to emerge in North America. It has important consequences for globalization, as it demands that everyone--globally--enjoy health as a matter of basic universal entitlement. This paper will explore what we might by saying that health is a human right, and the global implications of realizing this value commitment. Key questions include: what elements of health do we have human rights to? How would realizing health as a human right affect the process of globalization and international affairs? Is this an attainable idea at all?

John Otieno Ouko, Michigan State University

“The Significance of African Culture in Socio-Economic Development”

This disquisition aims at corroborating the contention that development in Africa has been so far a misplaced myth. Contemporary Africa is marked by an excessive extroversion in its models of development. There has been an uncritical acceptance of foreign values and development models that stress “growthmanship” and “Speed-ups” of the kinds of processes that are supposed to have produced development in the now so-called developed states. The discussion on Africa concerning the crisis of development has underestimated the role of culture in Socio-economic development. There has also been tendency to regard culture as dependent upon the economic system that is merely a dependent part of the superstructure. This paper represents a break with this thinking. An attempt shall be made to examine the Socio-economic quagmire Africa is in in the light of African Culture. Without advocating for a nostalgic return to the African past, a way forward for socio-economic development in Africa shall be plotted.

Rajeshwari Pandharipande, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

“Who am I?: Diglossia of Identities in popular Cinema”

The paper will examine the radically changed notion of Indian expatriate identity and the change in the representation of expatriate Indian identity in popular cinema. In particular, the paper will analyze representation of Indian identity in the movies such as Mississippi Masala and Kal Ho Na Ho (Whether Tomorrow Comes or Not, 2003) to show that the representation of Indian identity has significantly changed from simple and homogeneous to complex and heterogeneous. While the popular cinema in the 1980s depicted religion as the primary basis of defining identity, the current 21st century cinema acknowledges the complex character of the expatriate Indian identity, which sustains those features (religion, language, etc) exclusive of the larger/ global reality within which it is located while maintaining its global and inclusive character. The paper will demonstrate that the two identities (local and global) co-exist, similar to two languages in a bilingual context, where the languages are used in functionally mutually exclusive domains.

Ryan Pearce, University of California, Irvine

“Informalization revisited: Transnational migration and managed globalization”

The restructuring of the global economy reinforces and strengthens patterns of South-North migration. This process is often cast as an unintended by-product of globalization, the necessary third element in the freeing of restrictions on the movement of goods, capital, and labor. This view ignores the active, self-determining agency of the migrants themselves. This paper examines the integral role played by informal day labor sites in maintaining acts of migrant autonomy. Specifically, these sites—rather than simply signifying new arenas of capitalist exploitation—facilitate the mobility of global labor, thus constituting an alternative, positive political project.

Bill Pelz, Oakton College

“The Commodification of Everyday Life and Popular Culture”

Marx discussed how, under capitalism, relations between people increasingly become relations between commodities (things). This paper will explore the various and sundry ways globalization has intensified this process as traditional popular culture and everyday life is transformed by the international market economy.

Justin Paulson, University of California, Santa Cruz

“On the relevance of Gramsci: community, politics, and hegemony in struggles for alternative globalizations.”

Throughout South America, movements of the Left affiliated with the "global justice" or "alternative globalization" movement have forged counterhegemonic blocs, and undertaken the longterm tasks of reshaping their national (and continental) societies outside the constraints of neoliberalism. In the North, however, many of the most prominent currents of struggle are increasingly vocal in their claims that 'hegemony' as a concept has been too hegemonic, and that the real radical currents of struggle must be inherently anti-hegemonic; some of these currents equate hegemony with oppression as such. (See, e.g., Richard Day's recent work Gramsci is Dead.) I argue in this paper that such an approach constitutes something of a dead-end for those engaged in progressive struggles for alternative globalizations, and argue instead for the renewed relevance of counterhegemonic projects. Any anti-capitalist social movement in the North – especially in the United States – has the extra burden of having to transform social relations in a heavily-reified capitalist center; it also has a responsibility to the rest of the world to put an immediate end to the repressive apparatuses of the U.S. state, which have material consequences to all manner of struggles in other parts of the globe. I argue that these tasks require a movement operating not only at the level of autonomous, self-organized communities operating in parallel to the state (as laudable as these are), but also within and through the structures of the nation-state itself.

Dr. Jeffrey L. Roberg, Carthage College

“The Importance of International Treaties: Is Ratification Necessary?”

The United States is party to numerous treaties, however there have been some major treaties that the U.S. has signed but not ratified. These treaties include the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Rome Statute, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks II. This paper will explore why the U.S. has not completed the ratification process for certain treaties even when the majority of the terms comply with U.S. objectives.

Ken Salo, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

“Mapping Alternate Legalities in post-apartheid South Africa’s Liberalizing Inshore Fisheries”

This essay explores how the legal field regulating fisheries production and trade in post-apartheid South Africa is being contested under conditions of a globally dominant free market economy. It maps how this field is being reconfigured as liberalizing transnational corporations, a restructuring administrative state and informal artisan fishworkers contest, cooperate and avoid their formal incorporation into a liberalizing inshore fishery. It argues that fisheries production law is being restructured through three coexisting and interacting legalities .A subordinated informal legality based on lived experiences, a receding national legality based on territorial jurisdiction and a dominant transnational legality based on individualized property rights. These legalities use strategies of rhetorical persuasion, bureaucratic imposition and threats of violence in ways that both re-inscribe and realign prior configurations structured through the colonial and apartheid legal fields.

Penny Seymoure and Sarah Stampfl, Carthage College

“The effect of deforestation on indigenous cultures: The case of the Mbyá Guaraní of Argentina.”

Deforestation of the southern rainforests is often discussed in terms of its long-term effects on the environment, the ozone, and the economy. While these are significant concerns for many individuals, little attention has been paid to the concurrent destruction of culture of peoples who live in the rainforests. This paper will examine the consequences of continuing deforestation of the Paraná forests of northern Argentina on the Mbyá Guaraní people. The paper will further consider the potential loss of indigenous knowledge of forest and plant management from a culture that has lived in symbiotic harmony with the forest for centuries.

Julie Shackford-Bradley, CSU Monterey Bay

“Torture in US Public Discourse, International Law, and Diaspora Fiction”

The equivocal discussion of the practice of torture in US public discourse is surprising, until we recognize that both the structure and practice of torture defy the rational and politicized modes of debate by which public discourse is characterized. This paper argues that, in order for torture as practice to be fully comprehended and the subsequent reasoning behind the “absolutist” position on torture in International Law fully appreciated, we must look beyond rational debate to the study of narrative, both testimonial and fictional. The paper refers to Elaine Scarry’s essay on the structure of torture, and diasporic fiction of authors from nations known for their human rights abuses.

Stephanie J. Silverman, York University, Canada

“The Network as a Resolution to the Refugee Problem: Towards a Theory of an Alternative Understanding of Refugees”

The network of committees that sprung from the Guatemalan refugee return movement of the early 1990s defied the traditional “victim” images associated with displaced people. Drawing from this inspiration, a recovery of the agency and identity of refugees through the network is proposed. A “network” is here appreciated as an articulation of the political that resists the hegemony of the territorialization of identity in order to envision a new form of community. Following the ideas of Arendt, Dillon, Mandaville, Walker, Weber and others, it is possible to imagine the network theoretically limiting the authority of traditional borders in order to free refugees from their secondary position in sovereignty’s inside/outside dialectic.

Rafal Soborsky, University of Surrey, UK

“Alternative Globalizations or Alternative Localizations? Anarchist and Ecologist Antiglobalisms from a Comparative Perspective”

Current academic research on the ideological contestation of globalization focuses primarily on alterglobalism (which aims to replace the neoliberal ‘globalization-from-above’ with a democratic ‘globalization-from-below’) to the neglect of ideological currents rejecting any form of globalization. This paper fills this gap by analyzing two exemplifications of antiglobalist ideologies - ecologism and anarchism - discussing both overlaps and differences between them. The emphasis is placed on antiglobalism as a political concept dependent on, and shaped by, other concepts of its host-ideologies. The paper focuses especially on those ideological constraints within anarchism which limit the scope of its localism in comparison to a radical localist vision of ecologism. The methodology of the paper is inspired by Michael Freeden’s morphology of political concepts.

Kirk Shaffer, Penn State University

“Roundtable Discussion on Global Studies Programs”

A round-table of some variety for those who run Global Studies Programs and departments to discuss program structure, assessment, ideal curriculum, resource constraints, and innovative initiatives at our campuses.

Alan Spector, Purdue University Calumet

“What's Haunting Globalization? Globalization!”

When the Berlin Wall was torn down and Communist Parties throughout Eastern Europe lost power, it became fashionable to declare that Marxism was dead. Not just Marxism, but the whole enterprise of trying to create a more just, equitable world was declared "dead". Pundits like Fukuyama declared that history had reached its end with the triumph of corporate capitalism and post-modernists repackaged the old idea that each human is ultimately an atomized, isolated being. The rise of fundamentalist religious nationalism furthered seemed to reinforce the notion that people were looking to the past, rather than an egailitarian future. But when Marx wrote the opening lines of the Communist Manifesto: "A specter is haunting Europe", he was, in part, responding to those who declared that Marxism was dead, just as it was being born. Similarly, today, we see the rise of several different strategies for opposing the "corporate globalization gone wild" of the past two decades. While nationalism, including religious nationalism, demonstrates its durability, there is also a consciousness of egalitarianism taking root at the local level, and combined with a growing internationalist consciousness, may offer a longer lasting challenge to corporate globalization. From India to Latin America we see the rapid growth of these movements, so soon after they were declared "dead". And Marx' strategic prescription for the movement of his time: "Workers of the world, unite!" may help inspire a grassroots global movement that can fight corporate globalization with grassroots people's globalization.

Stacie Steinke, DePaul

“Uncovering the Causes of Growth in Remittance-Sending Volume for Mexican Immigrants in the United States”

As the number of Mexican immigrants has risen in the past ten years, the amount of money that they send to friends and family in Mexico has increased at much higher rate in the past five years. This paper explains the growth in the remittance-sending industry arising from an expanded array of sending mechanisms that were prompted and promoted by the Mexican and United States government.

James Stobaugh, University of California, Irvine

“From Hawaii to the World: The Hawaiian Sovereignty Movement’s Connection to a Globalized World”

The modern struggle for Hawaiian independence continues and offers an excellent site for studying how indigenous movements look beyond the geographic demarcations of identity and claims making to the broader scope of possibilities offered by the global community. I examine ways the Hawaiian Sovereignty Movement has, and can, negotiate their identity with other movements and a globalized world while preserving their uniqueness and heritage. Specifically, the ways that the movement allied its identity with anti-globalization interests during the 2000 Asian Development Bank meeting as well as the possibility of taking their claims to the International Criminal Court are considered.

Juha Suoranta, Visiting Professor of Finnish Studies and Sociology, University of Minnesota; University of Tampere, Finland.

“Globalization and Pedagogy, or a View from Below: Towards Collaborative Social Relations of Educational Situations”

In this presentation I argue that pedagogical reform is needed in present (westernized) higher education (as a repressive knowledge apparatus) to gain another, more equal, humane and ecological world. Present commodified higher education encourages instrumental approaches in teaching and learning. In this respect students are images of their study environment, and have seemed to internalize indifferent attitudes of their higher institution, and western societies at large. In confronting these questions I focus on the smallest particle of higher education \_ the structure of teaching and learning process in the university classroom, and suggest the implementation of collaborative learning situations.

Kathleen A. Tobin, Purdue University, Calumet

“Globalization, Water and Civil Society: Lessons from Bolivia”

The world was watching as Bolivians successfully fought the privatization of their water by the U.S. Bechtel Corporation. This paper will examine ways in which the global press (mainstream and independent) covered this development, analyzing the perceived significance of issues, and suggesting how future policy makers might heed warnings in ways that incorporate alternative notions of water ownership and civic engagement.

This is part of a larger research project examining how civil society and civic engagement have been connected to water issues in the developed world, and whether they might be connected in similar ways to future water projects in the developing world. The Bechtel case in Bolivia is an important one, as it brought to light the many layers of globalization as it relates to the privatization of water. Because Bechtel essentially lost this case, the episode may serve as a starting point in developing new options for water access in Latin America and elsewhere.

Dr. Ganesh K. Trichur , St. Lawrence University

“Two Gulfs: Perceptions and Lessons from the Privatization of Disaster”

I argue in this paper that there are remarkable similarities between the political and military disasters in the Persian Gulf – where a deadly civil war rages in spite of and because of, the nature of US armed occupation of Iraq – and the socio-political disasters in the Gulf of Mexico. In both cases, I want to argue, at work is rising and unsustainable costs of protection – rising ‘external’ costs of protection in the war on Iraq, and rising ‘internal’ costs of protection in the class wars waged on the domestic poor. ‘External’ and ‘internal’ are really two sides of the same coin – in the sense that in both cases a militarized state apparatus works on two fronts, abroad, and at home. Increasingly, this is a privatized military state apparatus, which appears to know only how to respond with “overwhelming force” to any problem it encounters. However, the quality of this force and its efficacy – abroad and at home – raises some interesting questions. In both spaces, the privatization of warfare and welfare points to a bizarre turn in US affairs, a turn whose long-term outcome point toward de-democratization trends in the United States.

In this paper I present three dimensions of my object of investigation – I point out ‘elective affinities’ between Baghdad and New Orleans; I highlight perceptions of the US response to Katrina by scholars and media writing outside the national space; and I suggest some lines of action for a progressive Left in the US. I engage with the race and class dimensions of the natural disaster to argue that the question of ‘what is to be done’ is really a question of making the evacuees central in all future decision-making. In the first place the hurricane, its effects, and the management of its effects, have disempowered and intensified the estrangement of Afro-American communities at the center of the disaster. It brings questions of race to the forefront of the discussion, much as the war in Baghdad alerts us repeatedly to the questions of race in the invasion and occupation of Iraq. A ‘new deal’, which involves reconstruction, rehabilitation, and constructive re-creation of hurricane-ravaged Afro-American communities in the affected states of southern US is a minimal expectation. Reconstruction efforts, I argue, should integrally involve Afro-American communities.

Instead of channeling funds through the Red Cross and other such volunteer organizations, I argue that organizations like Community Labor United – a coalition of low-income groups in New Orleans – be empowered with the project of rebuilding damaged cities and restoring the morale and self-esteem of affected populations. Third, I argue that responses to the effects of Katrina will have profound long-term consequences for processes of democratization and de-democratization in the US. I also argue that Katrina affords a unique opportunity for re-aligning the political solidarities of community-labor organizations rooted in communities of color and the predominantly anti-war white peace groups.

Shivali Tukdeo, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

“Scripting Resistance: Coca-Cola and the struggle in Plachimada, India”

Once banned to do business in India, the Coca-Cola Company received warm welcome in 1992 as India opened parts of the public sector for private investment. Since then Coca-Cola has become a site of competing discourses--global and local; private and public; development and sustainability. In this paper I document the spectacular struggle mounted by indigenous communities and peasants of Plachimada against the Coke bottling plant in the region. Their resistance uncovers complex coalitions along the lines of caste-class and gender. As people of Plachimada fight both the global corporation and the hegemonic domestic elite, they create narratives of hope,resistance and solidarity.

Ning Wang, Arizona State University

“The Struggle of China: From Social Revolution to Market Experimentation”

China is now caught in a dual transition. That China has made rapid progress in its transition from a socialist to a market economy is minutely documented and intensively researched, if still poorly understood. The second transition that China is struggling with has attracted far less attention, the transition from a state-led development project inspired by a socialist revolutionary ideology to market experimentation driven by local initiatives and trial-and-error based social learning. We argue that the progress of the first transition is built on the second transition, and a focused study of which will thus shed light on the transition to a market economy. More relevant to students of globalization, the second transition allows China to embrace market economy and globalization, without endorsing the neo-liberal ideology. China thus presents a potential alternative approach to economic globalization.

David Wilson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“The Global Trope and the New Socio-Spatial Restructuring in US Cities”

This paper examines the ascendant use of the concept globalization as a convenient rhetorical strategy used by growth machines across Urban America. It reveals the recent stepped-up usage of the concept globalization as a deployed imagining in common urban discourse (the global trope”) that has helped drive the neoliberal agenda of restructuring these cities socially and spatially. It is recognized that globalization is not merely a new reality, but also a powerful rhetorical device whose invoking can be a potent political tool for capital in its drive to transform cities. At this rhetoric’s core, a supposed new hyper-competitive reality makes rust belt cities easily discardable as places of investment, production, and business. These once enclosed and confident containers of the economic, in the rhetoric, have recently become porous and leaky landscapes rife with a potential for dramatic economic hemorrhaging. Against this supposed reality, cities are portrayed as beset by a kind of accumulation disorder and uncertainty that now haunts them. The city, as a place of becoming, is a threatened but historically resilient locale that one more time must act ingenuously to survive. Through this, a new governmentality’s dominant contours – a proposed shock treatment of re-regulation, privatization, and re-commodification – is grounded and rationalized. In this context, the new governmentality is shown to be generating a new low-income punishing uneven development across U.S. cities which most decisively marginalizes low-income African American communities.

Allison Witt, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“Shifting Sands: An Alternative Globalization Found Among the Ruins of the Silk Road”

The Silk Road conjures images of a vast trade route linking East and West, the romantic desert tracks highlighted by cosmopolitan oasis towns infused with a global flow of knowledge, music, silks, spices, religions, languages and treasures. In recent times, these images have gained worldwide popularity appearing in “documentaries, websites, feature films, tabletop books, and discourses of diplomacy and tourism” representing what Marie Thorsten calls “a fashionable nostalgia for an imagined global community.

Beyond nostalgia, images of the Silk Road resonate in the current search for a common future in an increasingly interconnected world. To find a common past is reassuring. Both the East and the West share the bond of the Silk Road history, and neither side need be ashamed of the images currently associated with it. Unlike colonialism or Empire, the Silk Road becomes a vision of very diverse, yet consenting participants. Current cultural representations do not imagine the Silk Road as a story of one-sided conquest, but as the trade and exchange between multiple equal partners, where all parties gained, changed, and evolved through their contact. The Silk Road can serve as a historically grounded counter to the US or Western hegemonic globalization. The Silk Road demonstrates how the forces of globalization can serve as an opportunity for a more equitable global exchange of knowledge, technology, and material resources.

Drew Woodley, York University, Canada

“Global Stage, Global Actor: Reframing Global Society through NGO Networks”

The Westphalian understanding of the global system no longer holds the exclusivity it once did. The global political sphere is now a multi-system entity, with different systems operating using system specific rules. With increased globalization, non-state actors have formed these alternate systems. NGOs and activists represent diverse populations across traditional boundaries, forming their political system around ideological interest rather than territory. This issue focused constitution allows them to create a system of relations, different from the Westphalian assumption of conflict and anarchy, structured on forming resource sharing networks

Hui Xiao, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

“Post-Mao Intellectuals in Cyberspace: Reading Reincarnations of Chinese LiteraryClassics under Globalization”

Up to July 21st, 2005, China has had the second-largest population of netizens, over 1.03 billion, following that of the United States. When China has joined the “immense global urban intercultural festival” after the “cybernetic revolution” in Fredric Jameson’s words, cyberspace becomes one of the major venues for post-Mao intellectuals to utter their voices in this newly-formed public sphere. Through reading online rewritings of two Chinese literary classics, The Romance of the Three Kingdoms and Outlaws of the Marsh, this paper intends to examine the shifting public roles post-Mao intellectuals play. Well-read in late imperial China, the two novels contributed significantly to cultivating Confucian virtues and historical vision of commoners. With the extremely popular rewritings published first at Bulletin Board System recently, new cultural meanings are attached to the classics in their circulation among (post)modern readers.

Other than for their literary or historical merits, both electronic reincarnations are often recommended as enterprise management guidebooks and class analyses of the post-Mao China. I will contextualize my reading for an age of globalizing cyberspace and explore the following issues: Is there emerging a new group of intellectuals along with the coming into being of an internet forum? What kind of roles do the internet and intellectuals play in shaping a new public space and popularizing the new form of exploiting traditional narratives as “authentic” Chinese cultural capital? I will track the trajectory of public intellectuals turning into “economic men”, or neoliberal subjects in post-Mao globalizing free-market economy. To conclude, on the one hand, it is an unarguable fact that the post-Mao online reincarnations help re-popularize Chinese literary classics. The recycled “Chineseness” through the medium of global internet questions the commonly-viewed demise of traditional narratives and redefines the fluid boundaries of the imagined community of a cultural China. On the other hand, the fact that these indigenous MBA textbooks are taking over the market share once monopolized by the management gurus from America, Europe and Japan does not necessarily mean the victory of “Chineseness”. After all, these rewritings and reimaginings of a traditional China are still subsumed in the dominant order of a global market. In this sense, the globalizing communication materialized through the spreading use of internet has actually rewritten the tradition of public intellectuals, and reinforced the circulation and penetration of neoliberal consciousness and political rationale in all aspects of current social life of post-Mao China.

Stomi Yamamoto, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“Interstices in the Migration System”

The role of intermediary is one of the understudied areas in migration studies. Some illustrate an intermediary as a mediator who facilitates migratory flows between countries, while others draw attention to mutual aid associations set up to assist newcomers. Nevertheless, none has examined what are the conditions that give rise to certain kinds of intermediary. The paper attempts to make an argument that, in the case of the U.S., the discrepancies in the immigration, labor, and taxation laws vis-à-vis national, state, and local level may be the necessary condition that yield to the rise of intermediary.

Silk Road demonstrates how the forces of globalization can serve as an opportunity for a more equitable global exchange of knowledge, technology, and material resources.

Gordana Yovanovich, University of Guelph, Canada

“Integration of the Honor Culture and the Ideology of Human Rights as Alternative Globalization”

At the present, the human rights ideology is in conflict with the honor tradition not only in the Middle East but in other parts of the world. In my paper I will argue that although the human rights philosophy focuses mainly on the dignity of individual whereas the honor culture is more concerned with the well-being of society, the two systems do not have to be in conflict. In an alternative world vision, the two systems can complement each other as an individual is enriched and protected by social integration and social system. This view has been suggested by Latin American Boom writers of the 1960s, particularly by Julio Cortázar and by Gabriel García Marquez. In their Modernist works the liberation of individuals is an important subject, yet the Latin American understanding of individual rights is explored in the context of the Cuban Revolution, which – like the traditional honor culture – has been concerned primarily about the well-being of society. In my study I will highlight how the Boom sought to empower individuals without subordinating them to societal pressures, and at the same time acknowledged society’s importance. I will then suggest that this view can help resolve some of the difficulties present politics of globalization faces.