

Global Studies Conference 2017 Abstracts

Abid, Mujib

Giving Nicknames to Deadly Bombs: Afghanistan, the Imagined Geography

Afghanistan has been the 'place of exceptions' since the American occupation in 2001 began. It is the place where, as Chomsky once pointed out, people die "not by design but because it does not matter" whether they live or they die. The dropping of the "mother of all bombs" on Afghan soil is keeping with that tradition. The reactions it generated are inherently non-Afghan (non-native), ranging from an obsession with the size and nickname of the bomb to its unprecedented nature in human military history, to its symbolism for American hegemony and Trump foreign policy. This is indicative of a conventional failure, or unwillingness, to question and critically engage the situational imperatives that are prolonging the violent and protracted Afghan conflict. By drawing from postcolonial literature, in particular Edward Said's imaginative geographies, I argue that a colonial worldview dominates interactions between the US-led western forces (coloniser) and Afghans (colonised).

Alibeli, Madalla Awad

Marital Satisfaction in Times of Change

This study aims at examining levels of marital satisfaction among a sample of married men and women in United Arab Emirates (UAE). The study investigates levels of marital satisfaction by examining how fulfilled with their spouses respondents are in terms of communications patterns, conflict resolution, marital role relationships, managing finance, children's responsibilities sharing, and flexibility and closeness. To achieve the objectives of the study, a self-administered questionnaire and in-depth interviews were conducted by trained research assistants. The study provides original data about marital satisfaction in the UAE and explains the effect of relevant social factors on this very important issue.

Allison, Juliann

Feminist Politics at the 2007 World Social Forum in Nairobi: Convergence and Contestation among Attendees

The 2007 World Social Forum (WSF) held in Nairobi drew nearly 75,000 activists primarily from Kenya and other African nations. It was the first WSF meeting to be held in Africa and the first to prioritize women's and feminists' participation. Given this initiative, I will discuss the analysis of more than 500 surveys administered during the Forum and the extent to which those attending supported central goals long associated with feminist and women's movements: women's right to abortion and electoral gender quotas.

Arun Shoba, and Thankom Arun

Gender Capital and Social Movements: The Kudumbashree Experience in South India

The study is motivated by the observation that collective action at the grass-root level helps achieve development goals and social equality. Through tracing the history and trajectory of the Kudumbashree movement in the South Indian state Kerala, we examine how divergent groups of women invest in, build, and maintain their alliances for collective action. The role of SHGs as a form of social capital, particularly among poorer women, does demonstrate contradictions, but to some extent they provide an important political and economic space for women where different forms of capital are activated, legitimized, and transferred within and beyond households.

Boggs, Carl

Globalized Corporate Power, Warfare State, and the Matrix of Domination

To speak of "fascism" in American public discourse has long been one of the great taboos of political life – opinion leaders ritually insisting that this nefarious reference, like dictatorship, tyranny, and totalitarianism, is relevant only to other countries. What could the US, widely regarded as a model of Constitutional democracy, pluralism, and political liberties, have in common with those earlier barbaric systems in Germany, Italy, and Japan? I argue that American society is well along the path to a modern fascism, one differing from these earlier regimes but simultaneously sharing many of their features. A distinctly American fascism can be expected to carry forward and embody a tightening confluence of sectoral interests: corporate, state, military, and increasingly media – interests favoring oligarchy, authoritarianism, and warfare state within an expanding, globalized matrix of domination. The Donald Trump presidency, it turns out, fits more or less unevenly within the broad parameters of an expanding militarized state-capitalism that, in the absence of strong counter-forces, could be on the verge of transitioning to a new type of fascism.

Bourdon, Kaylin

Immigration, Reimagining the White Republic, and Waves of Fascism

While exclusionary forms of identity are central characteristics of fascism, the "wages of nationalism" are underexplored. White-nativist ideologies have continuously reimagined the US as "a white republic" in a colored hemisphere and world. This ideology was reborn in Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, drawing from the racialized law-and-order Southern strategies of Wallace and Nixon. Drawing on the work of Mike Davis, Walter Goldfrank, and John Simon on fascism, nativism, governance, and crime, I explore the emerging Latin@ century and immigration in the context of global and local quasi-fascist movements.

Castro-Rea, Julian

Right-Wing Think Tank Networks in Latin America: The Mexican Connection

The existence of right-wing think tank and intellectual transnational networks in Latin America has already been documented. However, this task has mostly been accomplished on the basis of information available over the Internet. Close investigation into the concrete activities, structure, connections, impacts, and ideology of member organizations and individuals is still scarce. This proposal wishes to contribute to fill this gap by adding field work data about three prominent organizations and one network node, all based in Mexico. Building on interviews with institutional leaders and their critics, and observation of institutional activities, I will offer a close description of their personnel, production, joint events with other organizations in the network, links with corporations and academic and political institutions to gauge the scope of the networks, and their ability to influence policy and the political process in the countries where they are active.

Chajdas, Tymoteusz

Reporting Post-Truth Politics: News-Making in an Era of Alternative Facts

The recent emergence of alternative facts released by government and circulated by media has become a part of the political discourse in the US and abroad. This contributes to the global crisis of journalism, reduced trust in media and politicians, which may carry further repercussions in a form of information pollution. Journalists and media outlets already attempt to respond to this crisis by reevaluating the current ways of news-making. By adopting a functional approach to mass communication and abandoning the idealized notion of "Fourth Estate", I propose alternative ways of reporting political events through advocacy-driven and data-oriented journalism.

Chang, Grace

Fighting for Environmental Justice, Climate Justice, and Migrant Labor Rights: Forging Local and Global Connections

This presentation is a study of a "local" campaign against a power plant proposed in the city of Oxnard, at a site with two existing plants that have been poisoning the low-income, majority people-of-color community for decades. The site is next to agricultural fields populated each day by 3,000 immigrant, Latina/o, and Mixteco farm workers already exposed to toxic pesticides. There is also a Title I high school less than two miles away, where almost 3000 students spend the majority of their waking hours. This community suffers some of the highest rates of asthma in the state of California, and the highest incidence of pesticide-sprayed fields located near schools in the country. It is a textbook case of environmental racism, of corporate power and profits over people, and of ostensibly public agencies such as the California Energy Commission and California Public Utilities Commission in clear alignment with the very industry it is mandated to regulate.

Chaplin, Kenneth Sean

"Black Lives Matter": From the Local to the Global

In this presentation, I discuss the emergence and evolution of Black Lives Matter from a local to a global movement. Specifically, I illuminate and expound on race and racism as the bedrock of black American's resistance strategies of social control. Via content analysis of a select group of print and digital media outlets, I show how the local emerged and developed in a way that reduce the impact of race and racism in order to broaden their scope, analysis, agenda, and efforts for greater diversity and inclusion. I also demonstrate, using Charles Tilly's approach to campaigns, repertoire, and WUNC displays, how the local transcended state and national borders and boundaries, but paradoxically continue to struggle to raise awareness of race and racism as the bedrock of the social control of black peoples in US and abroad.

Chase-Dunn, Chris

The Global Right in the World Revolutions of 1917 and 20xx: Reflections on the Analysis of W. I. Goldfrank on Fascism and the Global Political Economy

An understanding of the contemporary constellation of right-wing forces national and transnational social movements need to compare the recent movements and the global context with what happened in the first half of the 20th century in order to figure out the similarities and differences, and to gain insights about what could be the consequences of the reemergence of populist nationalism and fascist movements. This study uses the comparative evolutionary world-systems perspective to study the global right from 1900 to the present. The point is to develop a better understanding of 21st century fascism.

Choi, Wai Kit

Ten Days in Mong Kok: Defending Street Barricades without Leaders during Hong Kong's "Umbrella Revolution"

The uprisings that swept from the Middle East to Wall Street in 2011 are often described as embodying a "leaderless" form of organizing. To some, Hong Kong's 2014 Occupy Movement embodied a similar logic of mobilization. With no centralized organizational structure, these contemporary movements are often thought to be a new form of politics that is far more participatory and spontaneous than the tradition of revolutionary communism inaugurated by the Bolsheviks in 1917. However, such a stark contrast suppresses the similarities between past and present revolts, and obscures how the experience of the former can still contribute to the latter. I will show how Trotsky's work on the Russian Revolution, specifically his idea of insurrection as an art, and Mao's writing on the construction of revolutionary base areas during the Chinese Revolution help answer the question of how different participants in a seemingly "leaderless" organization coordinate with one another to fight against a state apparatus that is hierarchically organized and disciplined.

Christiansen, Jonathan

Transnational Campaigns and Bangladeshi Garment Workers

According to social movement framing theorists, movements mobilize support through collective actions frames. Within transnational campaigns there are questions regarding how movements negotiate various cultural frameworks that may appeal to different constituents. In this presentation I interrogate representations of Bangladeshi garment workers within transnational campaigns for Bangladeshi worker rights and some of the implications that accompany the different frameworks. I raise questions regarding solidarity within transnational social movement campaigns and speak to representations of the "Other" by Western actors and the role of pre-existing cultural frameworks and the mechanisms by which Othering occurs in cases of core/periphery collaborations.

Cifuentes, Sylvia

State of Exception: Resources and Development in the Amazon

In August 2016, the military evicted indigenous people of the Nankints community in the Ecuadorian Amazon to develop a Chinese company-led mining project. The community protested, but was repressed and a 'state of exception' was declared. Through discourse analysis, this study explores the behavior of a resource-dependent State in front of ethnic conflicts, "new" development paradigms (Beijing consensus), and concerns to conserve the Amazon. It draws insights from states of exception and resource states theories to contest usual understandings of left and right in Latin America, and of the "downfall" of governments which once portrayed an "alternative and ecological" left.

Darian-Smith, Eve and Philip McCarty

The Global Turn

As an interdisciplinary synthesis, Global Studies seeks to reach beyond the nation-state paradigm and modern disciplines to engage global issues and the wider global context. In recent years it has become clear that scholars in nearly every discipline across the humanities and social sciences are also engaging the global. We call this broader engagement of the disciplines the "global turn," and argue that it has very important implications that scholars are only beginning to understand. Being at the forefront of this engagement, global scholars have both the opportunity and obligation to consider the manifold implications of the global turn.

Darian-Smith, Eve and Philip McCarty

Designing and Doing Global Research

A workshop intended to help scholars new to the field of Global Studies design research projects that can be carried out effectively with limited time and resources. Topics will include how to engage multifaceted global issues, deploy global perspectives, develop global research questions, and find a focal point for your research. We will also discuss global research design issues, methods and methodologies, and how to analyze different aspects of complex and interrelated issues. The case study approach will be used as an example of a flexible methodology that can be used to study multifaceted issues from multiple perspectives.

del Castillo-Mussot, Marcelo

Denationalization of Mexico's Energy Reserves as Political Treason

In 2013, the three federal branches of government in Mexico mutilated the country's political constitution in an effort to give away some 75% of the nation's hydrocarbon reserves to foreigners and private companies. Such drastic changes in Mexico's legal order are actually unconstitutional since, according to the constitution itself, these changes can only be undertaken by a new Constitutional Congress. The federal government's anti-constitutional behavior, specifically its violation of article 136 of the Mexican constitution, provides a legal basis for dismissing top officials from their posts.

DiBranco, Alex

Misogynist Mobilizations Online: The Dissemination of Male Supremacist Ideology

Online mobilizations are often neglected as less significant than movements grown “in the streets,” yet in the globalized world, Internet forums disseminate nascent movement ideology without regard for borders that can evolve into offline organizing or encourage right-wing violence. This study analyzes the rise of online misogynist mobilizations through blogs, websites, and Reddit—particularly the Men’s Rights Movement and The Red Pill—and their growing support and influence in countries from the United States (where as part of the “alt-right” they enthusiastically supported Donald Trump in the 2016 election) and Canada, to the United Kingdom and Norway, to Australia.

Epstein, Barbara

The Left on Neoliberalism

In this presentation I address the question of why it has been so difficult for the US left to develop effective campaigns against neoliberalism/austerity, leading to a situation in which the right has been able to gain widespread support for its reactionary response to this issue. Answering this question involves looking at the efforts of the global justice movement at the Seattle protests and beyond. Though neoliberalism has been a major focus of Marxist and other leftwing scholarship, organized challenges to it have been limited, notably on the part of labor. This leads to the question of what kind of movement we need in the effort to undercut the credibility of the right on this issue, and more broadly to defeat the right.

Faust, Jesilyn

The Hybridity of Human Rights: Rethinking the Colonial Narrative of Spanish Empire through a Global Lens

Much of the research on the development of human rights within the Spanish colonial empire focuses on the Americas, Christianity, and the Spanish abuses of slaves and indigenous people. However, by focusing on the Americas and Christianity, more than half of the history of human rights is left out, that of North Africa, Asia and Islam. As my research shows, through a study of Spanish colonial documents and historical analysis, the construction of doctrines of human rights has long been a hybrid global process, involving many voices and perspectives. Understanding the hybrid and global nature of the history of human rights is key to informing contemporary struggles to preserve human rights.

Figueroa Helland, Leonardo and Cassidy Thomas

Decolonizing Food Systems: Indigenous Revitalization, Food Sovereignty & Agroecology as Counter-Hegemonic Movements for a Civilization in Crisis

The globe’s contemporary food production and distribution systems are underpinned by a variety of mutually reinforcing socio-political structures including anthropocentrism, patriarchy, coloniality, industrial and developmental modernism, capitalism, neoliberalism, and the Westphalian nation-state system. These intersecting structures are at the root of the 21st century’s convergence of crises. Where food is concerned, the crisis is in large part the result of a globalizing industrial system, which has contributed to dispossess, destroy, and displace smallholder and community-based agricultural/aquacultural models through, for example, neoliberal restructuring and land/water/ocean grabbing. This study critically analyzes the intersecting structures of power that underpin the global food system, and explores how the growing food-sovereignty movement challenges these structures and creates space for alternative food systems informed by indigenous and agroecological knowledge.

Fonjong, Lotsmart

Winners or Losers of Global Large-Scale Land Acquisitions: Where do Rural Women in Cameroon Fit In?

Sub Saharan Africa has witnessed a significant increase in large-scale agricultural investments requiring thousands of hectares of land. The underlying assumption is that these investments will serve as a catalyst of development by bringing in foreign capital that will put ‘unused land’ into production, modernize local agriculture, leading to high productivity and growth. Beyond the agricultural sector, LSLAs will transform local infrastructure, create off-farm employments and national revenue through taxes. Although these anticipated gains will benefit government and affect communities, women are also seen as those likely to benefit both directly and indirectly from job creation, social amenities, and food security. This study examines the situation of rural women in Cameroon based on primary investigations. I argues that women are generally worse off and where they have benefited from off-farm employments, these benefits are downplayed by other problems that are the offshoot of agro-investments, such as urbanization, food scarcity, amongst others.

Fontes, Leonardo

Social Mobilization, Citizenship and Right to the City in the Periphery of São Paulo

In this presentation I discuss the continuities and changes concerning political and social organization of São Paulo’s peripheral dwellers through a historical and ethnographical research that took place in two neighborhoods. The idea is to compare the new generation of social organizations that emerged after 2013 protests in Brazil with older social movements that emerged in the 1980s from local associations and were institutionalized in the 1990s. Thus, the paper aims to compare these periods with focus on organizational forms, repertoires of action, discursive patterns and in their conception of citizenship and right to the city.

Francisco-Menchavez, Valerie

Save Mary Jane Veloso: Building Solidarity and Global Migrant Activism in the Filipino Labor Diaspora

On April 29, 2015, Mary Jane Veloso, a Filipina migrant worker, who was sentenced to death in Indonesia for trafficking heroin into the country, was granted a stay of execution by the administration of President Joko Widodo. In the days leading up to her execution, national Philippine and international media outlets picked up on Mary Jane, one out of nine people on the execution list, because a flurry of global migrant activism highlighted her compelling story as a political and economic prisoner. Across the globe, Filipino migrants took up a campaign calling for clemency for Mary Jane with a myriad of political critiques on the Philippine and Indonesian nation-states alongside analyses of the conditions that brought her to the point of execution. In this presentation, I argue that networks activated by this case exemplify the power of systematic migrant worker organizing both in Filipino diasporic sites and in the Philippines where Filipinos, both migrant and non-migrant, use ongoing local campaign work against precarity to create migrant class consciousness in critique of neoliberalism and the Philippine state in their demands to save Mary Jane Veloso.

Freeland, Gregory

Globalism in Rhythm: Music at the Intersection of Populism and Multiculturalism

This study analyzes music as a generator of political activism, cultural awareness, and populist resistance among people living in politically, religiously, and/or economically unequal situations and globalized unsettled sensitivities, expanding research on the role of music in the political and cultural developments of the 21st century. Music is an important component of social movements. Utilizing lyrics I find music to be a transformative power that communicates political knowledge and sustains cultural identity, which is especially important among people seeking identity in a globalized world.

Gaskin, Leigh

Gendering Global Climate Change: Calling for an Intersectional Environmental Justice Movement in the Present Moment of Neoliberalism

The trend of neoliberalism and the rush to make private all that is public comes at a cost to the environment. Climate change is accelerated by pro-business mentality and mass global capitalist depredation and abuse of natural resources and human workers. Significant problems like deforestation, monoculture, water scarcity, rising sea levels, and the oppression of workers in a global context make environmental concerns a feminist issue. The environmental challenges that many currently face originate in systems of power and oppression that use vulnerable populations as targets for resource exploitation. In this presentation, I will elaborate on an envisioned intersectional feminist environmental justice movement and explore how social, food, economic, and environmental justice groups must connect to effectively confront neoliberal ideologies that subjugate the environment and its people.

Gunderson, Christopher

Donald Trump, the Crisis of Neo-Liberalism, and the Threat of Neo-Fascism

The election of Donald Trump has prompted a renewed interest in the phenomena of fascism. This study draws on the work of Nicos Poulantzas and Bill Robinson to examine the class character and ideological outlook of the forces gathered around Trump and the failure of the established neo-liberal leadership of both major US political parties to block his path to the White House. While rejecting characterizations of the Trump regime as fascist, it weighs the significance of the involvement of explicitly fascist forces in the Trump campaign and the crisis of neoliberal hegemony that facilitated the campaign's success.

Harris, Jerry

Technology, Unemployment and the New Nationalism

Developments and the organization of technology have always been an important factor in the social relations between capital and labor. At US Steel in Chicago patterns of segregation and inequality were clearly demarcated by one's job, department, and the tools of production one worked with. But in the end, skilled white workers were subject to technological change and mass layoffs just like their Black and Latino co-workers. Although the organization around technology created divisions among workers, globalization and the revolution in IT shut the mill to all workers. Trump's slogan to "make America great again" appeals to an era of white privilege and industrialism. The new nationalism yearns for the past. The left must face the future, and build a movement around democratic eco-socialism, cooperative ownership, and entrepreneurship under the guidance of social production.

Hellegers, Desiree

Contesting the Militarization of Public Transportation in Portland, Oregon

This study examines an emerging front in the struggle for police accountability in Portland, Oregon, where the police have been sanctioned by the US Justice Department for their routine use of "excessive" and often lethal force. Portland's transit authority is poised to spend \$11 million on a transit jail and ramped up policing of "fare evaders," including undocumented riders whose inability to pay rising fares places them at risk of deportation. The controversy raises questions about the extent to which, nationally and globally, public transportation budgets—the hallmark of sustainable 21st century urban centers—are being redirected toward militarized policing.

Honda, Eric

Trumped?: Breaking Duverger's Law the Wrong-Way on the Right-Path to The Clash of Civilizations

Duverger's Law states that single-ballot "first-past-the-post" (FPTP) elections yield two-party systems since successful candidates irrespective of ideological preference pursue platforms "in the middle" to retain reliable constituents while simultaneously swaying the undecided voter against extreme positions. Yet extreme positions led to a Republican White House at home with The Clash of Civilizations abroad. By analyzing data from the 2016 American National Election Survey (ANES), regression results reaffirm correlation between hegemonic-decline and right-wing resurgence as the populist-vote turns to nativist-realpolitik against the usual-electoral-expectations so responsible for a new democratic system now trumped.

Hu, Chenghao (Matt)

Stock Market Linkages between China and East and Southeast Asian Countries: The Shadow of a Rising China

This study examines time-varying correlations and conditional volatility between the Chinese stock market and 12 other East and Southeast Asian countries from January 2002 to April 2017. Correlations are estimated in an asymmetric general dynamic conditional correlation model framework (GARCH-AGDCC). In this presentation I discuss stock market co-movements between China and other East and Southeast Asian countries, the influence of China on other East and Southeast Asian countries, and the relationship between stock market correlations and exchange rate volatility.

Johnson, Craig

Global Capital, Global Church: Neoliberalism and Post-Conciliar Catholicism

The rise of the neoliberal consensus is usually understood in the context of macroeconomics and the defeat of the politically organized left, leaving out other global trends from the 1960s to the 1980s. This study explores one of these ignored connections, between the changes in the Catholic world following the Second Vatican Council and the ascendance of technocratic neoliberal politics, focusing on Chile, Mexico, and Italy. Doing so reveals the links between conservative Catholicism and pro-capitalist, globalizing politics, and contributes to the reinterpretation of neoliberalism as a global project rather than an imposition on the developing world and lower classes.

Kallman, Meghan

Becoming a Cosmopolitan: National Identity, Patriotism, and Civic Values among Peace Corps Volunteers

This study uses the case of the Peace Corps to analyze how a sense of national identity develops among nascent cosmopolitans and development workers, and how that articulates in their political lives. Drawing on both qualitative and quantitative data from a large project on the Peace Corps, I ask how the experience of being abroad in a state-based, volunteer capacity transforms volunteers' perspectives on, and identification with, the US. I find two major patterns within my data: for some, being abroad in this context can consolidate a sense of national identity and helps young Americans (who often have counterhegemonic leanings in their youth) identify with the state, solidifying values and a durable connection to US polity. For others, being abroad in this capacity can produce deep criticisms of the US, an explicit dis-identification with American values.

Kapdan, Onur

When Hegemony Collapses: The Impact of The EU's Crisis on the Authoritarian Turn of Turkey

Once propagated as "a model democracy" to the post-Arab Uprising regimes, Turkey's Justice and Development Party (AKP) is now referred to as an example of the authoritarian populisms across the globe. This study analyzes the authoritarian turn of the AKP regime within the context of Turkey's hegemonic crisis since the 1970s. Such a perspective calls for attention to the specific constellation of social forces, who fight for hegemony, and their objective and subjective strengths. This constellation, on the other hand, is not independent of the global constellation of forces particularly outside the core countries. Consequently, the "democratic period" of the AKP regime has been a result of a delicate balance in this relation of forces.

Katsiaficas, George

Global Social Movements since 1968

The Sixties must be understood as a global eruption that consolidated profound cultural and political transformations. Although its histories are largely confined to single countries, the movement was internationally self-conscious and its praxis globally focused. After 1968, regionally synchronized waves of uprisings defined the character of social movements. Not organized by central organizations nor ordered by decisions of small groups of conspirators, spontaneously generated global insurgencies increasingly emerge in the 21st Century. I will discuss specific eruptions since 1968 as a means to provide us with capacities for more effective understandings and interventions in the future.

Kellner, Doug

Donald Trump, Globalization, and Authoritarian Populism

The election of Donald Trump can be seen in the context of the rise of authoritarian populist, nationalist, and anti-globalist movements throughout the world. I will focus on the assault on globalization in the Trump campaign, look at his administration and actions as president, and raise questions concerning whether he has betrayed in anti-globalist followers and is pursuing business-as-usual for global, corporate capitalism.

Kick, Edward L.

Modeling the Global and National Causes of Food Insecurity and Its Role in Social Movements Across the World System

Food insecurity has been identified as a key to recent social movements, especially in the Middle East. This study analyzes results of a structural equation modeling of contemporary food insecurity in around 140 nations. The model links local eco-systems to world-system position; to social capitals identified by a number of rural sociologists; and to domestic production, energy, and related factors in a causal-loop system predicting national food security. Causal pathways are calculated to determine the most significant causes and optimal solutions to food insecurity globally. In turn these are linked to national legacies of domestic political conflict, especially food riots.

Kotadia, Sonam

The Emergence of Right-Wing Populism in Austria and Germany

In recent decades, right-wing populist parties have pushed themselves to the forefront of the political scene, particularly in Europe. However, not all countries have been affected by this trend at the same speed. Austria and Germany are two examples: right-wing populism flourished in Austria beginning the late 1980s, while it only recently attracted attention in Germany. This study proposes three potential explanations for this lag: 1) differing electoral systems; 2) timing of the electoral breakthroughs; and 3) the culmination of new political and social cleavages. Through a comparative qualitative analysis, I conclude that the third explanation is the most compelling.

Kurgan, Sarp

Securitization Policies in Discourse and Action: The Case of Turkey and the AKP

In this presentation I attempt to bring an understanding of how authoritarian governments function and (in)effectively use securitization policies to secure popular support based on the Turkish case, specifically concentrating on voting preferences of Turkish voters in the last three elections, namely June 7th 2015, November 1st 2015, and the historical referendum at April 16th 2017. I argue that in the medium term voting behavior in Turkey has shifted from ideological values and economic concerns into an identity-based voting behavior since the early 2000s, whereas in the short term it has been highly influenced by security dynamics through deliberate attempts of the government.

Kuteynikov, Alexander

Right and Left in 'Global' Inter-parliamentarian Assemblies: Convergence or Divergence?

The aim of this presentation is to consider the members of the international inter-parliamentary bodies (NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, European Parliaments, etc.) as a particular global social group. The panelist tries to answer the following questions. What happens to right and left, when they come together at the international level? What is the extent of their convergence or divergence towards global issues? Whether or not they are functioning as leaders of global social movements?

Langman, Lauren

White, Right Ressentiment

How do we understand the rise and election of Trump as a way of illuminating the long-standing, dormant, psycho-social fault lines that underlay contradictions of ideology and interact with the adversities and indignities of neo liberal globalization and growing multiculturalism? We need to examine the interplay of politics, media (infotainment/spectacle and celebrity culture), and right populism/white nationalism—intersecting with growing inequality that joined with the narcissism, authoritarianism, and anger. All this mixes with various expressions of Trumpism: sexism/misogyny, racism, ethnocentrism, and Islamophobia that collectively promised to make white, male America great again.

Li, Haoyue (Cecilia)

Media Coverage of the Environmental Crisis in China

Although there is significant scholarly interest in Chinese environmental problems, little is systematically studied about how global media discursively construct Chinese environmental crises, especially when they initially come under the global spotlight. This study, using narrative analysis, examines media coverage of the Chinese Songhua River Spill, the earliest and most influential Chinese major trans-boundary pollution crisis that attracted unprecedentedly high attention in global public spheres. I examine the mediated narratives that are used to report this major environmental crisis in Chinese official media, Western media, and Chinese liberal media where distinct narrative patterns in each media and the interplay of media narratives emerge.

Li, Yiqing

Is Global Art History Possible?

Art history, as a sphere of human expression, records our understanding of cultural development. In this presentation, I explore the possibility of global art history and reciprocally how this possibility influences our understanding of world culture as a whole. By investigating postmodern art historians who have engaged in expanding Euro-America-centered art history to multicultural art histories, I shall discuss the ideological and political dilemmas we confront with in writing a global art history, and to what extent we could rewrite art history to breakdown the hegemony of canonical history. I shall use my case study of history of Asian abstract art to deepen the analysis of these two issues.

Locke Suchodolski, Gabriel

Patronizing Dispossession: Private Management of Community Politics in the Brazilian Amazon

With ethnographic evidence from a riverine-peasant community menaced by a hydroelectric dam in the Brazilian Amazon, I argue that patronage groups can provide the basis for both resistance to and compliance with territorial dispossession. Anti-dispossession social movements provide resources and framing for some local groups, which selectively protest dispossession and intrusive subcontracted firms. In response, private firms employ co-optative mechanisms to ensure local support and project continuity, actively promoting information and participation. Patronage groups and participatory techniques are crucial intervening mechanisms to understand and explain the interactions between state or corporate powers and local communities, as well as the shape of dispossession processes.

Logan, John

Labor Relations under Global Agreements: A European Multinational in North America, Europe, Hong Kong and Australasia

This study analyzes labor relations at a multinational corporation (MNC) under a global framework agreement signed in 2004 with a global union federation (GUF) that is intended to protect freedom of association throughout the world. The company has also signed the UN's Global Compact, and respect for labor rights is highlighted in its code of conduct. Despite these commitments, management in Hong Kong, Austria, Canada, Ireland, Australia, and the UK has failed to implement the company's labor rights commitments. In Sweden, in contrast, management cooperates with blue- and white-collar unions, and respects workers' core labor rights. In New Zealand and parts of the US, the company has recognized unions, though problems remain. Results are based on interviews with workers, union representatives and officials, GUF personnel and others, and on an analysis of a wide range of publicly available sources.

Lopez, Edwin

Water is Life at Standing Rock: A Case of First World Resistance to Global Capitalism

In this presentation I examine resistance at the Standing Rock Reservation as a form of First World resistance to globalization. Drawing from a working model on a resistance, efforts to halt the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline are seen through the lens of "racialized political cultures of opposition and resistance (RPCO). This model considers the dispossessive nature of neoliberalism and how such practices facilitate wealth accumulation for transnational capitalist elite interests. In response to such resource extraction, historically discriminated groups counter with efforts to redistribute resources along racial lines. Culture is significant given how a variety of cultural expressions (e.g. experiences, ideas, and beliefs) and networks come together to form a RPCO.

Luger, Jason

Urban Space, Cyberspace, and Left / Right Social Movements in an Authoritarian City-State

Social movements in Singapore on both the left and right utilize urban space and cyberspace in complex and sometimes contradictory ways. Issues such as gay rights have galvanized reactions in the conservative and progressive spheres, but in such an authoritarian setting with a City-State geography, cyberspace is often the site where these social movements interact. Material and digital urban space is therefore territorially rooted and connected to global flows occurring at various scales, giving rise to complicated combinations of global v. local networks and negotiations.

Madrid Salazar, Javiera

Global Capitalism and South-South Migration: The Challenges of Resisting Exclusionary Politics in Chile

Chile's economic performance in the last 40 years has caught the attention of many. More recent changes in the migratory flows into the country, instead, remain understudied. In this presentation I discuss Chile's integration into the global economy vis-à-vis South-South migration. It is argued that the country's transformation into a new center of accumulation has been fundamental for its emergence as a destination for migrants from the Global South. Although instrumental for transnational capital, these groups have also been targeted by the elite's xenophobic discourse. Captivated by the 'Chilean Miracle,' migrant groups face the challenge of articulating a response while living in one of the most unequal countries in the world.

Madrid, Mariela Villalba

Foreigners and Fascism: Collective Identities and Global Social Movements

This study investigates social movements and collective identities, especially nationalism, and how these have evolved in the context of international migrations and global capitalism. The focus is on the ideologies and nature of right wing nationalist, nationalist, and anti-immigrant movements, comparing those that emerged in the 20th century with those that are emerging in the 21st century. A simple hypothesis is that hyper-nationalist movements emerge in a context of greater immigration. In this presentation I lay out research designs for examining the effects that international migration may have on the emergence of reactionary nationalism and other possible causes, such as economic crises and increases in inequality. I will also discuss the challenges that these movements pose for democratic global and national governance and collective rationality.

Mannathukkaren, Nissim

From Social Movement to a Political Party: India's Common Man Movement in the Age of Neoliberal Globalization

This study analyzes the emergence of a new social movement in India against corruption that began in middle class-led, anti-political, civil society activism, and later transformed into a populist electoral force encompassing the masses—the political party called the Aam Aadmi Party (Common Man's Party). I argue that an understanding of these changes would require going beyond seeing concepts of the "people" and the "political" in a reductionist and pre-determined fashion. The most important feature of Indian society now is neoliberal capitalism conjoined with Hindu majoritarian nationalism, which is increasingly displaying authoritarian and fascist tendencies. In this context, the question is whether the positioning of the Common Man's Party as a post-ideological centrist and populist formation that avoids addressing systemic inequities in terms of class/caste/religion/gender and confronting neoliberal capitalism will allow it to stop the surge of rightwing forces in society. The trajectory of this movement has important lessons for the theoretical understanding of new social movements/political formations under neoliberal globalization.

Manski, Sarah

Building the Blockchain World: Technological Commonwealth or Techno Capitalism?

Blockchain technologies like Bitcoin are altering the economic foundations of global society, raising new possibilities both promising and problematic. The democratic promise of blockchains resides in their tendencies toward decentralization and horizontalism. I examine the deployment of this technology by cooperatives and other institutions of the solidarity economy, as well as traditional state actors, in constructing a global technological commonwealth. Relying on original interviews, organizational records, and publications, I specifically consider emergent uses of blockchains in the democratization of services, agriculture, finance, and governance. I also consider negative contingencies through which blockchain technologies could undermine democracy, including technological stratification and the rise of the technorati, the reduction of large sections of the working class into disposability, the demise of the regulatory state, and the technologization of corporate personhood.

Mehta, Aashish

Is Work Deglobalizing? Theory and Evidence

In this presentation I examine the popular claim that labor markets have become more globally interconnected. I distinguish two ways that work could globalize—the fraction of the workforce employed in sectors producing internationally tradable products could increase; and the fraction of work needed to meet a country's export demand could increase. Globalization in the former dimension should influence policies involving exchange rate management, labor protections, and education policy, while globalization in the latter dimension increases the need to coordinate macroeconomic policy. I find no empirical evidence of globalization in the former dimension, and strong evidence that while some countries are globalizing in the latter dimension, others are deglobalizing. Levels of interconnectedness in both dimensions are surprisingly low. Claims about the globalization of work seem to be exaggerated.

Morales, Gregory

Train Graffiti as Transnational Communication

I use to tag when I was younger. As I got older I noticed changes in how tagging was being used. Over time, it became more a tool of clandestine communication used, mainly it seems, by some 40% or so of our younger generation that has 'tuned out' of digital/internet use (social media). The shapes used in the graffiti, the colors, the words, the images, the topic/subject transmit messages to both directed audiences and, in a non-specific way, to a general audience. It appears that train cars are the preferred medium, and even the location of the tag on these metal moving sheets of paper have a meaning beyond the ability of digitalized data analyzation. I've followed trains from California to Texas and watched as the, mostly men, taggers not only reviewed the tag that came their way, but sometimes added to them some sharpness or roundness or darkness of color, as if adding data to a stream. And so, these moving tags become perhaps the most secure codex in use today.

Munoz, Jr., Carlos

Title and abstract to be announced.

Narayanan, Pavithra

Global Indigenous Movements against Extractive Capitalism

From coalitions of Indigenous communities in Mexico to the Mirrar's alliance with Australian environmental groups, national and global networks of Indigenous peoples have emerged as leaders in struggles for a just and ecologically sustainable future. As Clayton Thomas-Muller of the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation says, Indigenous people "are holding back the most powerful entities on the planet and doing it with the might of a social movement strategic framework that is about mobilizing mass pressure from the grassroots upward." Focusing on the expanding resistance, I will provide an overview of global Indigenous movements against neoliberal regimes and extractive economies.

Nnajifor, Peterson

The New Sharing Economy: Demise of Social and Labor Movements?

This study analytically examines the new sharing economy as a matrix for social movements. Drawing from recent studies on the sharing economy worker's psyche modeled on the millennial, on the one hand, and the business mindset of the sharing economy corporate executives and investors, on the other, I demonstrate that successful social movements may be practically impossible in a sharing-economy-dominated future. This premise is based on the tenet that the dramatic change being observed in the relationship to work by millennials, who contrary to their predecessors shun long-term engagement, may ultimately render collective social movement and labor struggles unfeasible.

Pollard, Tom

Alt-Right Transgressions in the Age of Trump

The alt-right movement echoes and inspires colorful and socially-evocative fantasies as well as ideological transgressions. Its advocates and operatives gravitate toward such phenomena as sadomasochism – in speech, policy, and entertainment, favoring, for example, S&M themed videos, computer games, and figures of speech. Other forms of sadomasochism include "revenge porn" and "war porn" involving graphic photos and videos taken by American combatants in Iraq and Afghanistan. One question we explore is how, and to what extent, such broad cultural tendencies intersect with growing right-wing forces at work in American society, including the ascension of Donald Trump to the White House.

Portella, Elizabeth

Theorizing the Post-Industrial Society: Imperialism and Neoliberal Globalization

Euro-Atlantic scholarly literature on neoliberalism largely focuses on neoliberal transformations in “post-industrial” or “post-Fordist” societies. By foregrounding “immaterial” or “information” economies, this literature often deemphasizes the role of manufacturing and industrial production, thereby obscuring the global conditions which make such societies possible. An analysis of international shifts in labor and production, I argue, points to the imperialist character of neoliberal globalization and is crucial for critiques of neoliberalization. In particular, I focus on the concentration of production in regions where export-oriented industrialization was concurrent with US deindustrialization.

Presbey, Gail

Teaching Peace and Justice Movements: U.S. - Brazil Comparison

Based on my travels with a Fulbright group to study Afro-Brazilian culture and history in Bahia and Maranhao, I designed my Peace and Social Justice undergraduate course to contain many Brazil topics and to be part of our planned Global Studies program at my university. I will share the structure of my course, and how I introduce students to theorists like Paolo Freire, Clodovis and Leonardo Boff, author Carolina de Jesus, as well as activists Chico Mendes and Sr. Dorothy Stang. Drawing connections between the work of Mendes and Stang with Wangari Maathai and the Green Belt Movement in Kenya as well as US-based environmental activists, we discuss the connections between a Freirean “pedagogy of the oppressed” and organizations in Brazil that run afterschool and arts programs for Afro-Brazilian youth such as Ile Aiye. We also look at longstanding organizations like the Movement of Rural Landless Workers (MST) and more recent organizations like Reaja ou Sera Morto/ “React or Die,” a Brazilian activist organization that is protesting police killings in Brazil. We compare and contrast their organization and the situation in Brazil with Black Lives Matter and police shootings here in the US.

Raghu, Pratik

The Prism of Expanding Peasants’ Rights: A Critical Investigation of Different Frames Applied to La Vía Campesina’s Human Rights Engagements

Since its foundation in 1993, La Vía Campesina (LVC) has surged to the forefront of the global alter-globalization movement of movements, mobilizing human-rights discourse to promote small-scale sustainable agriculture as a key component of social justice, equity, dignity, and autonomy everywhere. This literature review argues that food sovereignty—LVC’s best known rights-based innovation—inflects a range of other interrelated but distinct frames that variously foreground peasants’ rights, “peasantness,” land, cultural recognition, and collective emancipation, prefiguring an array of prospects for the expansion of human rights to peasants and other marginalized populations confronting the failures of capitalist globalization.

Ratner Carl

Populism Cannot Solve Social Problems and Generate Emancipation

The most popular form of contemporary social movements is a new form of populism. I shall explain how contemporary populism is inadequate for solving social problems and generating emancipation. I shall provide examples from social movements (such as the cooperative movement and diversity movements) and intellectual currents that express populism. The weakness of populism centers around its emphasis on personal forms of expression and interaction. Marxian socialism is superior because it focuses on structural causes of problems and programmatic structural transformations that are specifically geared to negate the causes.

Redden, John

Global Internet Value and Work

In this study I examine the sending of and responding to Internet and smart phone messages as work and labor, along with the reexamination of Marx and economic analysis of twentieth century “brick and mortar” industries, and the convergent (definable limits) of capital in brick and mortar industries, and the divergent (dynamic limits) of capital in network use applications and infrastructure. Also, the amount of dead labor in both convergent and divergent forms of production, and the examination of dead labor that transforms into the equivalent of living labor with an associated analysis of Artificial Intelligence.

Reifer, Tom

Polanyi’s Double-Movement, the Origins of Fascism, and Possible Contemporary Resurgences: Rethinking Walter Goldfrank’s Insights in the 21st Century

Contemporary debates about fascism and its possible contemporary resurgence, among comparative historical sociologists, are generally silent about its world-systemic origins. In contrast, Karl Polanyi located its origins in the double movement of the rise and demise of the market system. This was the basis for Walter Goldfrank’s argument that fascism was “the phenomenon of a stagnating, even contracting world-economy.” Goldfrank’s contributions towards a world-systemic analysis of the late 19th/early 20th century leftist movements and fascist waves are explored here, in the light of a comparative world-historical mapping of social movements on the left and right in the global system today.

Schmidt, Ingo

The Failure of Neo-Liberal Politics and the Rise of Alternatives

Neoliberal globalization produced discontent and subsequent demand for social protections in all parts of the world. The decline of Third Worldism and the collapse of Soviet communism and social democracy, though already embattled in their European heartlands, became a beacon of hope in some countries of the East and South. Yet, whenever they were elected the continuation of neoliberal policies, branded as Third Way between Keynesian welfare states and unfettered markets, led to disappointment, anger, and frustration. This opened the door for right-wing populists but also a quest for pre-Third Way social democracy or other left alternatives.

Shahani, Nishant

Safe in the City: Gay Tourism in India and the Politics of Worlding

In my presentation, I examine how LGBT tourism in India is implicated in creating geographies of queer safety through transforming practices of modernity that shape New Delhi. I analyze the paradox of how queer tourism can co-exist with political, legal, and social discrimination that LGBT Indians experience. At first, such a divide appears to be simply the consequence of globalization's fracturing effects in which tradition uneasily brushes up against modernity. But instead of understanding the relationship between LGBT tourism and globalization simply as a mimetic effect of "global" queerness onto a passive local, I propose an attention to the politics of "worlding" around urban Indian centers, i.e. the real and imagined geographies through which metropolitan cities such as Delhi seek to produce what Ayana Roy has called the "global regimes of value" that shape postcolonial urbanism.

Smith, Jay

Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Transnational Social Movement Cooperation: Shared Interests, Shared Values?

Indigenous movements with their cosmologies, spirituality, and attachment to the land are inherently anti-systemic. Increasingly, Indigenous transnational networks are forming alliances with transnational non-Indigenous networks. Employing ethnographic methodology I focus on two recent venues to examine the nature of cooperation, first the UN Framework for Climate Change in Paris, 2015 and the World Social Forum 2016 in Montreal, Quebec. I will also focus on whether Indigenous/non-Indigenous alliances are primary strategic or Indigenous values are diffusing into mainstream movements? What are the implications for the evolution of the Global Justice Movement?

Smythe, Elizabeth

Building Bridges to Alternative Food Systems: Social Forums, Food Movements and North-South, Producer-Consumer Divides

This study examines the role of social forums in the development of movements challenging the global food system and developing alternatives. Using case studies of World Social Forum (WSF) events in Tunis (2013, 2015) and Montreal (2016) it focuses on the role of place, especially North-South divisions and differences in relation to, and scales of, food production. Observations of WSF workshops and events are used to examine the different challenges and strategies of building alternative food systems. Because forums bring together such a wide array of actors despite these differences they offer potential for broader global solidarity around alternative food systems.

Sozmen, Mesadet

Arendtian Understanding of Truth, Lying and Action: Defactualization and Dehistoricization of the Armenian Genocide

In the contemporary world where factual truths are increasingly and deliberately disregarded, one can often question the truth of the facts, and how the totality of the facts can ensure the recognition of a crime when the aggregation of the facts can take thousand shapes. Armenian Genocide as a past crime that Turkey has never adequately faced offers an interesting dimension to engage with Arendt's discussion on truth and politics because it is one of the clearest examples in the political history of Turkey where the totality of the facts cannot ensure the recognition of the crime.

Sprague-Silgado, Jeb and Salvador Rangel

The Historical Contingencies of Racialization: From Early Capitalism to Global Capitalism

Capital since its inception has relied upon creating and promoting social divisions that help it facilitate its need for constant expansion and intensification. This is not to say that there were no social divisions before the advent of capitalism. According to Harvey (1990), "Capitalism did not invent 'the other' but it certainly made use of and promoted it in highly structured ways." Of the most significant of these new "structured ways" have been those brought about by racialized exploitation and the concept of race. Through the lens of historical sociology and historical materialism we examine the major qualitative changes that we can see occurring that shift the boundaries of this structural relation roughly according to the needs of the current stage of capitalism.

Stubbs, Alec

Automation, Artificial Intelligence, and the God/Useless Divide

This study analyzes the development of automation, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology with respect to the modern capitalist system. I begin by analyzing the role of technology in capitalism and propose how capitalism has failed to adequately make use of emerging technology. Next, I demonstrate the potentially detrimental development of automation and artificial intelligence within a capitalist framework. I then take up Yuval Noah Harari's Homo Deus in relation to human integration with biotechnology and his contention that future humans will develop into two classes: the "gods" and the "useless". Last, I consider how information has become the most valuable commodity in modern society. I contend that we must move beyond capitalism, develop a robust framework for the democratic sharing of information, and provide a strong safety net in order to prevent the exacerbation of inequality.

Sussman, Gerald

What is Political Life (in America)? Electoral and Media Politics in the New Cold War

This study examines how neoliberals, the Democratic Party, and the mainstream media (MSM), have instituted a new cold war in a wholesale challenge both to a rising Russian power and to the Trump administration, attempting as it were to kill two birds with one stone. In part, through the exposés of the "newspaper or record," WikiLeaks, the political establishment was forced momentarily to give way to an undisciplined victor in the presidential race. In response, however, the liberal wing of the CIA, the Democratic Party, and the MSM, with allies in the Republican Party, presented what by normal evidentiary standards is a fake concoction of Russian interference in the presidential election, while treating Trump as a "5th columnist."

Tamayo, David

The Limits of Fellowship: Lions and Rotary International in Mexico, 1930-1960

Following the Second World War, American civic institutions such as Rotary International expanded overseas, promoting free-market capitalism over radical ideologies, such as socialism. Historians have called the proliferation of these American NGOs abroad as the "substance of an imperial system in all but name." By focusing on the case of Lions and Rotary International in Mexico (1930s-1960s), I examine the extent to which these acted as conduits of American interests. I argue that, while Mexicans embraced club ideals, they did so in ways that suited their political values and local realities, often producing conflicts with club headquarters in the US.

Ul Ain Khan, Noor

Islamic Microfinance a Myth or Reality? A Case of Akhuwat

Poverty has been a key problem for most countries worldwide for many years and micro financing is considered a very powerful weapon in this regard, but this system is Riba-based and not acceptable for Muslims. A relatively new concept of Islamic microfinance is now introduced and very popular among Muslims all over the globe. This study answers the question whether this practice of Islamic Microfinance actually differs from the conventional microfinance in its letter and spirit, and also whether it is Shariah compliant or not. For this purpose references from the Quran and Hadith have been taken and also the operational methodologies and procedures of Akhuwat are checked, keeping in view the general practices of Conventional MFI's to see the difference.

Vargis George and Salli Vargis

Is History Repeating Itself? The Immigration Act of 1917 and President Trump's Executive Orders on Immigration

The Immigration Act of 1917 was one of the strictest immigration acts ever passed in US history. This year marks the centennial of this infamous and discriminatory act to restrict Asian immigration. President Trump's executive orders on immigration and H-1B visa program seem to return us to an era of racism and xenophobia. Despite the broader ethical, economic, and political ramifications of these orders on all immigrants, South Asians, the fastest growing demographic group in the country, are most likely to be affected significantly. This presentation will focus on discrimination following the 1917 act and potential implications of Trump's executive orders.

Wagner, Luke

The Dynamics and Influence of Contemporary Hindu Nationalism in Nepal

Across the globe, tensions around secularism, religion, and national identity increasingly define the terms of political contention. This study analyzes contemporary Hindu nationalism in Nepal, which emerged as an oppositional social movement after Nepal's parliament formally declared the former Hindu kingdom a "secular" state in 2006. I focus attention on the dynamics of the movement and on its relationships with Hindu nationalism in India. Although the movement has fallen short of its goal to re-define the state as "Hindu," I argue that concessions it secured in Nepal's 2015 constitution demonstrate that it has significantly shaped democratic culture and institutions in Nepal.

Wahlrab, Amentahru

Supporting Nonviolent Resistance: What's left of nonviolence after it's been adopted as the soft power of US foreign policy?

Gene Sharp, the so-called "Machiavelli of nonviolence," defines nonviolent action "as the waging of conflict by methods of protest, noncooperation, and intervention without physical violence." Such a definition of nonviolence broadens the term, distinguishing it from other more ethical concepts like "principled" or even "Gandhian" nonviolence. Given the United States' history of westward expansion, manifest destiny, imperial wars, overthrows, and proxy wars it may seem strange that the US would pay even a small amount of foreign policy attention to nonviolence. However, there is some reason to think that a blending of Joseph Nye's concept of "soft power," or the ability of states to persuade others to do what they want without force or coercion, may provide the intellectual groundwork to make sense of precisely how nonviolence fits coherently into US foreign policy.

Williams, John

The Free Speech Movement and its Legacy

The study of social turmoil of the 1960s centers on issues related to the battle over power. Those most impacted by this decade long struggle were college students, young blacks, members of the New Left, and hippies who believed that power should flow from the bottom up and not from the top down. To better understand this struggle over power one must return to the University of California at Berkeley during the fall term of 1964. In no short order, Berkeley serves as the epicenter of the political, social, and cultural upheaval that made the 1960s a unique and colorful period of American history. This study employs an array of primary and secondary sources to examine the origins and contributions of the Freedom of Speech Movement at the University that led to widespread social activism on other college and university campuses throughout the US.

Ygarza, George

Breaking from Stagnation: Confronting Dialectics in Collective Discourse for Transformative Change

Social movements manifest and coalesce under critical discourse generally articulated through dialectics. Recent movements in many parts of the world uphold dialectics in distinct ways reflective of the dynamics of power and politics from which they emerge. In the global North dialectics seemingly operate within a paradigm where history has come to an end; while movements in the global South move forward with new social imaginaries, at times abandoning dialectics altogether. While examining different dialectical approaches, I argue that uncritical dialectics in certain ways can confine and limit liberatory theorization within the paradigm of western epistemology from which it emanates.

Zonouzi, Leila

The Iranian Diaspora and Transnational Identities

With the rise of right nationalism and anti-globalization sentiments, today more than ever we need to reconcile the dominant group with the "other." Using the Iranian diaspora as a case study, I argue that diasporas provide alternative pathways due to their hybrid and transnational identities. By referencing theories like Khachig Tölölyan's diasporic (re)articulation of the nation-state, Bruce Robbins' concept of "overlapping allegiance" and what Edward Said describes as the "awareness" resulted from distance and displacement, I show how diasporic intervention can mend fissures among nations and promote a multicultural and multi-ethnic world.