

SYLLABUS: GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY
SOCIOLOGY 265GS/FALL 2005, T. 12:30 – 3:30
PROFESSOR: WILLIAM I. ROBINSON
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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OVERVIEW

Our personal biographies are linked to increasingly dense networks of global interrelations, as the integration of societies, economies, and cultures fundamentally transforms human life on the planet. This seminar is the first in a two-part sequence on globalization that explores diverse themes and aspects of emergent global society. Part I may be taken alone or in conjunction with the second part. Part I is *global political economy*, which emphasizes the economic dimension of globalization. We will review recent theories and research directions in global political economy, with special emphasis on the rise of the global economy and of transnational capitalism. Other topics include developments in world systems theory, flexible production, post-Fordism, global commodity chains, transnational corporations, and global cities. We will also look at development, the state of world inequality, and North-South relations.

Part II is the *sociology of globalization* and may also be taken alone or in conjunction with part I. Topics include an overview of the sociology of globalization and theories of globalism/the global system, political globalization, transnational classes and a transnational state, global culture and ideology, transnational social movements/global civil society, transnational migrations and the new global labor market, globalization and race/ethnicity, women and globalization, and local-global linkages/global ethnographies.

This is an exploratory seminar. It requires intensive reading, critical thinking, active participation, and a lot of hard work. However, you will find that acquiring a working grasp of global political economy is a form of intellectual and social empowerment. It will enhance many times over your understanding of the social universe, analytical powers, formal studies, and protagonism in society. To quote one famous social thinker: "There is no royal road to science, and only those who do not dread the fatiguing climb of its steep paths have a chance of gaining its luminous summits."

I understand that students are at different stages of their studies, and that global political economy is a complex and daunting subject. Inevitably you will feel overwhelmed or frustrated. Whether you find yourself lost, confused, or elated over the learning experience, I encourage you to raise questions throughout the course, to discuss your concerns in class, and to drop by during my office hours. I also recommend that you form study groups to discuss readings and assist each other in the learning process.

REQUIRED READINGS

- 1) Reading Packet of Selected Articles and Book Excerpts (available at Grafikarts, Isla Vista, 968-3575)
- 2) Peter Dicken, *Global Shift: Transforming the World Economy* (excerpts)
- 3) Manuel Castells, *The Network Society, Vol. I.*
- 4) Saskia Sassen, *Global Cities.*
- 5) William I. Robinson, *A Theory of Global Capitalism*
- 6) Ankie Hoogvelt, *Globalization and the Post-Colonial World*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Attendance is required. Ten percent of your grade will derive from attendance and another 35 percent will derive from active and meaningful participation in class discussion, including student presentations. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading assignments. Another 40 percent of your grade will derive from written responses to readings in the form of weekly reflection essays/abstracts on the readings. The final 20 points of your grade will derive from a term paper (details below). You can score a maximum of 100 points. Perfect Attendance is worth 20 points. Class participation will count for a maximum of 20 points. Each of 8 assigned reflection essays/abstracts will score a maximum of 5 points, for 40 points total. In the event one of the programmed themes is canceled you will automatically receive your 5 points.

STRUCTURE OF SEMINAR

The course is divided into the following weekly themes:

- 1 - Sept. 27: Introduction to global political economy and overview to seminar
- 2 - Oct. 4: The Political Economy of Uneven Development: Readings on Historical Materialism and World System Theory, New International Division of Labor, Global Commodity Chains, IPE.
- 3 - Oct. 11: Anatomy of the Global Economy: Part I, readings from *Global Shift*
- 4 - Oct. 18: Anatomy of the Global Economy: Part II, readings on the transformation of work, Fordism, post-Fordism, and Flexible Accumulation
- 5 - Oct. 25: Manuel Castell's *The Network Society*
- 6 - Nov. 1: Catch-up
- 7 - Nov. 8: Space, Geography, Territoriality: Saskia Sassen's *Global Cities.*

- 8 - Nov. 15: 'The Global Capitalism School': William I. Robinson's *A Theory of Global Capitalism*
- 9 - Nov. 22: Globalization and Development: Ankie Hoogvelt, *Globalization and the Post-Colonial World*.
- 9 - Nov. 29: Seminar Conclusions

PROCEDURE

The instructor will open each meeting with opening discussion on the week's topic, its relevance to globalization and transnational studies, and the state of theorizing and research into that particular topic. Following the instructor's opening lecture we will have some brief discussion, consisting principally of questions directed to the instructor. Then each student will provide a copy of his/her brief to everyone else present and we will spend some 10-15 minutes reading each other's briefs. After this we will move into seminar mode.

At that point, the student or students who have been assigned to give that week's presentation will present on the week's reading. As everyone will have done the reading, these formal presentations should be *brief, a maximum of one half hour*. Your presentations should not be based on summary of the reading but rather you should be organized thematically: identify the main themes raised by the readings, and, even more important, a list of discussion questions for the group. I want to reiterate: Since every student is expected to have done the readings, your presentation should not consist of a detailed summary, but rather draw out the critical issues raised by the week's readings. Prepare an outline for your presentation but *do not read from a prepared text*. Speaking to a group on the basis of an outline is an important skill to develop. In addition, the presenter(s) should prepare a one-page sheet listing questions raised by the readings that the group will discuss.

Following student presentations, we will move into seminar open-discussion mode. The presenters, together with the instructor, will facilitate discussion, including a review of the questions raised by the presenters. The instructor will also participate directly in discussion, occasionally present additional lecture material, and interject otherwise when appropriate.

WEEKLY REFLECTION ESSAYS, TERM PAPER, AND IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS

Abstracts

Abstracts are due each Monday by 5:00 p.m. Please place them in my box. Late delivery will result in a loss of points. The abstracts should be a double-spaced and typed 12 p. font, two pages (*no more*) response to the readings. These are brief reflection essays and should include: 1) several ideas that you found new, relevant and/or inspirational in the readings; 2) one or more critical

comments on an idea with which you disagreed or felt was unsubstantiated, inconsistent, or requires further examination; 3) three questions with regard to an idea or issue which you found ambiguous, poorly developed, or unclear. The pedagogical purpose of these essays is for you to organize and clarify your own thoughts on the readings and subject matter, and to prepare you for meaningful seminar discussion. I will look carefully at each abstract to make sure it lists at least three questions. During seminar discussion you should raise these questions.

Term paper

The term paper should be a critical review of the materials and topics covered in the course. I expect approximately 12-15 pages, and you should include a bibliography and appropriate citations. You should discuss what you have learned in the seminar, how the diverse themes have come together, and new lines of inquiry and research directions you feel are important in the field of the sociology of globalization. You can choose to read or cite additional literature but that is *not required*. The paper does NOT require new research or fieldwork. To reiterate: it should be a broad ranging review of the seminar topics and a more intensive focus on one particular topic of your choice. As this is not a research paper but rather an exercise in critical assessment of a body of ideas and literature, you do not need to follow the usual structure guidelines for a paper (the research purpose, statement of hypothesis, etc.). The style may be more loose and discursive. **Term papers are due on the last day of class.**

In-Class Presentations

Students will make a brief presentation on one of the week's readings. Please practice and time yourself. I expect each group to speak *no more than* 30 minutes. See above for more details.

COURSE OUTLINE:

1) SEPT. 27: INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY AND OVERVIEW TO SEMINAR

No readings required.

2) **OCT. 4: THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT: HISTORICAL MATERIALISM, THEORIES OF IMPERIALISM AND WORLD-SYSTEM THEORY, GLOBAL COMMODITY CHAINS, NEW INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOR, APPLYING WORLD SYSTEM ANALYSIS ((LATINO POPULATIONS)**

Readings:

- *Historical Materialism* (in reading packet).
- Anthony Brewer, *Introduction: Imperialism...* (in reading packet);
- William I. Robinson, Immanuel Wallerstein and World System Theory (in reading packet)
- Walter Goldfrank, *Paradigm Regained? The Rules of Wallerstein's World-System Method* (in reading packet).
- Christopher Chase-Dunn, *Globalization: A World-System Perspective* (in reading packet).
- Frobel, et. al., *The New International Division of Labor in the World Economy* (in reading packet).
- Korzeniewicz, *Commodity Chains and Marketing Strategies: Nike and the Global Athletic Footwear Industry* (in reading packet);
- Robinson, *Latino Populations in the United States and the Global Economy: A World System Approach* (in reading packet)

3) **OCT. 11: ANATOMY OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY, PART I, THE STRUCTURE OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY**

Readings:

- Dicken, pp. 1 – 273, and select one chapter from 10-14.

4) **OCT. 18: ANATOMY OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY, PART II, THE TRANSFORMATION OF WORK**

Readings:

- Amin Ash, “Post-Fordism: Models, Fantasies and Phantoms of Transition” (in reading packet)
- Mark Elam, “Puzzling out the Post-Fordist Debate: Technology, Markets, and

- Institutions,” (in reading packet).
- Jeremy Rifkin, “New Technology and the End of Jobs” (in reading packet)
- David Harvey, excerpt from *The Condition of Postmodernity* (in reading packet).
- Robert Cox, “The Core-Periphery Structure of Production and Jobs: The Internationalization of Production” (in reading packet).
- Dicken, pp. 509-576.

5) OCT. 25: THE NETWORK SOCIETY

Readings:

- Manuel Castells, *The Network Society*, Volume I.

6) NOV. 1: CATCH UP AND SUMMARY OF GLOBAL ECONOMY

No readings this week: 1) catch your breath! 2) start next set of readings!

7) NOV. 8: GLOBAL CITIES AND SPACE/ GEOGRAPHY/ TERRITORIALITY

Readings:

- Saskia Sassen, *Global Cities*.

8) NOV. 15: THE GLOBAL CAPITALISM SCHOOL

Readings:

- William I. Robinson, *A Theory of Global Capitalism*

9) NOV. 22: GLOBALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- Ankie Hoogvelt, *Globalization and the Post-Colonial World*
- Robinson, “Remapping Development in Light of Globalization: From a Territorial to a Social Cartography” (in reading packet)

10) NOV. 29: SEMINAR CONCLUSIONS

No readings. Papers due.

APPENDIX: SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHIES

I.

There are now actually *thousands* of books on globalization. The following books are considered *a few* of the most important classic academic studies on globalization in the social sciences. Most of these works are included in parts I and II of this seminar.

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, *Empire and Multitude*

Roland Robertson, *Globalization: Social Theory and Global Culture*

David Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity* (Also, *Spaces of Capital* and *Spaces of Hope*)

David Held, Anthony McGrew, David Goldblatt and Jonathan Perraton, *Global Transformations*.

Anthony Giddens, *The Consequences of Modernity*

John Tomlinson, *Globalization and Culture*

Leslie Sklair, *Globalization: Capitalism and its Alternatives* (earlier editions went by the title *Sociology of the Global System*).

Martin Albrow, *The Global Age*

Philip McMichael, *Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective*

Peter Dicken, *Global Shift*

Burowoy, et. al. *Global Ethnography*

Saskia Sassen, *The Global City* and *The Mobility of Capital and Labor*.

Manuel Castells, *The Network Society*

The following are a few basic texts that review the globalization literature.

Jan Aarte Scholte, *Globalization: A Critical Introduction*
Malcolm Waters, *Globalization* (2nd, revised edition)
Manfred B. Steger, *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction*
Robert J. Holton, *Globalization and the Nation-State*

II.

The following is an annotated bibliography on the global economy developed by my friend, retired philosophy professor Bob Ackerman. It is useful. The readings all deal specifically with the economics of globalization.

Below you will find some of the literature that I think is essential if the range of what exists about globalization is to be explored before you start developing your own ideas on the topic, which is of course the important step. The items have some comments with an attitude. You can replace the comments and the attitude with your own. I list items that I read with profit from where I started. You might profit more from other items that you find, or equivalent items to those that I list. You can branch out from the bibliographies of the works I cite to thousands of readings on globalization. I have marked seven items with a double asterisk () that I think MUST be read.**

RAH-RAH LITERATURE

An economic system is as complex as a living being, partly because it is composed of living beings who are not predictable. The economists have a technical literature based on models of economic systems. The models lead rigorously to the conclusion that free trade must increase the total volume of goods and services available to two economic systems that are engaged in free trade. These first items are a sample of the literature, formal and non-formal, that come from economists to support the notion of free trade. When the models are complex enough, they also show that although the total volume increases for both economic systems, the resulting redistribution can find some members of one or both economic systems with less than they had before. Thus, even though the total volume of goods and services is supposed to increase, there can be losers unless some way is found to divide the new level of goods and services in a manner that makes everyone better off. This “compensation problem” is usually ducked in the economic literature, probably because there is no market solution to it, only a political and social solution.

Caves, Richard E., Jeffrey A. Frankel, and Ronald W. Jones. 1990 (fifth edition). **World Trade and Payments: An Introduction.** Harper Collins Publishers.

At some point, you need to have a coherent grasp of the economic arguments for free trade and the models and mathematics on which they are based. The various treatments vary widely in their mathematical and theoretical sophistication. This book is fairly complicated, and it requires persistence to bring the diagrams and mathematical arguments into synch with the more informal basics, but it covers the important ideas in a manner that can be understood if you can follow basic graph theory. If this book is not at the right level for you, find one that is. There are many alternative texts. This is a standard textbook on the subject.

** Krugman, Paul. 1997. **Pop Internationalism**. MIT Press.

Krugman is a serious mathematical economist whose contributions to trade theory coalesce around something called "the new trade theory" that introduces such matters as returns to scale, geographical location, timing of entry, and other factors into older, standard trade theory. He may well wind up with a Nobel prize in economics for this work. Krugman is one of the rare economists who can write decent English prose. He writes an op/ed column for the New York Times (usually on Tuesday and Friday), and writes on economics elsewhere. His essays are collected into a number of books. All of them argue for free trade globalization. This is one I like a lot for its clarity and level of argument. It is necessary to think through what Krugman has to say.

** Sachs, Jeffery D. 2005. **The End of Poverty**. Penguin Press.

Sachs is the (formerly) Harvard economist who has been famously an advisor to many important nation-state economies. Perhaps because of this, his vision for globalization is largely rah-rah. There is a lot of interesting detail on how nation-state economies can be affected by governmental policies. There is almost no mention of transnational corporations or their roles in these economies, so what Sachs has to say needs to be thought through in a wider context. A main thread in this book is that extreme poverty (see the book for the definition) could be eliminated world-wide if the rich countries would simply keep their existing foreign aid promises to provide .7 of 1% of GDP for this purpose. This is a form of globalization (sharing that much wealth to bootstrap everyone out of extreme poverty) that seems exciting and even necessary, given Sachs' argument that we are at a point in world-wide development where that is possible. A must read.

Bhagwati, Jagdish. 2004. **In Defense of Globalization**. Oxford University Press.

Krugman's teacher, and one of the central voices promoting free trade globalization. This book is a non-mathematical analysis of Bhagwati's annoyances with anti-globalization forces.

Wolf, Martin. 2004. **Why Globalization Works**. Yale University Press.

Another non-mathematical rehearsal of the arguments for free trade globalization. A good example of sweeping the compensation problem under the rug. In a 398 page book, it gets a mention on p. 170, but it is not important enough to appear in the chapter summary a few pages later.

WAIT A MINUTE LITERATURE

While trade has become more free (fewer tariffs and restrictions) in recent decades, inequalities in wealth between nations has increased, rather than decreased, as the Rah-Rah literature thinks should happen. The Rah-Rah school tends to assume that this is because trade is not free enough (yet). But the Rah-Rah models depend on interacting national economies, and these models ignore the various institutions that exist that are supposed to support reducing income equality through free trade globalization. Chief among these are the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization. (There are also many regional banks and trade associations, such as NAFTA, to be considered in the full picture.) (When you read the Rah-Rah literature, you may notice that these institutions, which are not market institutions, are largely ignored.) The Wait A Minute literature largely argues that free trade is failing because these institutions are flawed, and need to be recast. To some extent, The Wait A Minute Literature also considers capital markets (the buying and selling of large quantities of national currencies in an effort to make a profit on the exchange rates). The Wait a Minute Literature is not logically inconsistent with the Rah-Rah literature, because it has a quite different institutional focus. The books on these institutions in English are largely about the World Bank, since the United States has more control over the World Bank than the IMF or the WTO, and books below contain “confessional” literature by American economists who have worked for these institutions. The primary (alleged) purpose of the World Bank is to provide loans to poor countries to improve their economic performance, and hence to bring them into the global economy as useful participants.

** Stiglitz, Joseph E. 2003 (paperback). **Globalization and its Discontents**. Norton.

An important book in which a Nobel Prize economist who worked with the World Bank analyzes World Bank performance (and IMF performance to some extent) as inadequate, largely because the models on which loans were made were out of touch with the reality of the situation in the countries to whom loans were made. It is a central feature of the three world organizations that they have little or no representation in their planning by those who will be

affected. This book is a must read.

** Easterly, William. 2002 (paperback). **The Elusive Quest for Growth**. MIT Press.

Read this with the book above, as it amplifies many of the same points. One of the problems with World Bank strategies is that they are often simplistic. There might be drive to give machines to poor countries, only to discover that the machines cannot be productive without trained workers, who require investment in education. Or the reverse. An investment in education might find that the educated did not have the machines they needed to be productive with their knowledge. This book also discusses in some details the political and social structures in many poor countries that doom the loans to failure, as when corruption sucks up the load and leaves nothing but debt in its place. Also a must read.

** Mallaby, Sebastian. 2004. **The World's Banker**. Penguin Press.

I found this to be an interesting corrective to the literature blasting the World Bank (as above). It is a history of the interaction of the recent head of the World Bank, Jim Wolfensohn, with the staff and the donors to the world bank. There are clearly a lot of people in the World Bank whose intentions are frustrated by structure, among other things. For example, this is the only easily accessible place to learn that World Bank loans must be vetted by committees with representations from the rich countries who lend money to the bank to be loaned in turn to poor countries. One can easily see by inference from the behavior of academic committees handling money, that there are problems. Incidentally, the near future of the World Bank should be interesting. The United States more or less chooses the head of the bank, and Paul Wolfowitz has just been nominated by the Bush administration for the position. Wolfowitz's deep grasp of economic modelling can be seen in his pre-war assurances that Iraqi reconstruction would be paid for by Iraqi oil profits. Having "reconstructed" Iraq, Wolfowitz can move on to do a lot of damage at the World Bank in "reconstructing" other economies. On the day I wrote this, the German reaction to the nomination was that the European storm of enthusiasm was muted. Stay tuned on this one.

Blustein, Paul. 2005. **And The Money Kept Rolling In (And Out)**. Public Affairs.

An interesting and detailed account of the IMF involvement with the Argentinian economy. Read in conjunction with the Mallaby book (above) for insight into the way in which the World Bank and the IMF operate.

Hertz, Noreena. 2004. **The Debt Threat**. HarperBusiness: HarperCollins.

A good introduction to the issues surrounding the fact that many poor countries have an accrued indebtedness on top of a non-performing economy that did not receive the advertised

boost from the original loans. These countries are like credit card holders who are on a treadmill of interest payments that do not touch the real debt. This book describes projects designed to forgive this indebtedness, which seems to me the right idea, but does not discuss in any detail the equally important topic of preventing this from happening again, that is, of setting up mechanisms that will more appropriately achieve the stated goals of foreign aid in the future.

Perkins, John. 2004. **Confessions of an Economic Hit Man**. BK (Berrett-Koehler).

A startling account by an economist who prepared economic projections for potential World Bank loans that were steered by the preferences of various interests who literally intended the loans to fail, so that money could be made in the aftermath. More than startling, it is shocking. I cannot say how true all of this might be. I would note that according to this book, fooling World Bank economists is child's play. My immediate response to the implausibility of this has to be tempered by a reading of "The Yes Men" (see below).

SHUT IT DOWN LITERATURE

All of the accounts listed so far describe globalization from inside out, that is, from inside rich countries looking out at what it might be like to be caught up in globalization in poor countries. The inside-out literature treats workers in poor countries like faceless producers. There is a desperate need for more of the kind of reading offered in this section, phenomenological accounts of what working in export producing zones in poor countries is really like. Occasionally, there are opportunities to hear talks by workers from such zones on college campuses.

** Klein, Naomi. 2002 (paperback). **No Logo**. New York: Picador Press.

Note the publisher as compared to the publishers of the "serious" books listed earlier in this bibliography! Don't be put off by the claims of corporate lawyers that Naomi Klein's work represents gutter journalism at its worst. Read it and weep! Be aware, for example, that the export processing zones created by many nation-states to provide jobs for some of their citizens, are outside the control of those nation-states, even though they are geographically inside the historical borders of those nation-states. The nation-state laws do not apply, and the nation-state police do not go in. In effect, these zones are "inside" the corporations who have manufacturing sites in them, which is one reason alone why the old conceptions of how the world's economy should be divided up **MUST BE** refashioned.

** Bales, Kevin. 2004 (revised). **Disposable People**. University of California.

Bales discusses the persistence of slavery in new forms in the contemporary world. In theory, slavery and globalization should be disjoint, as the wage workers involved with transnational corporations would not be (technically) slaves, and to be sure, much of what Bales writes about

is not directly relevant to issues of globalization. On the other hand, what he says about charcoal production in Brazil and the role of the “gatos” in finding and controlling charcoal workers opens a topic that needs further exploration, in that a “free choice” to engage in charcoal production (which is involved in the global economy) may be based on a deception that results in entrapment. I am indebted to Ms. Vanessa Sawicki of Worcester State for this reference.

Roy, Arundhati. 2004. **Public Power in the Age of Empire**. New York: Open Media Pamphlet Series, Seven Stories Press.

If you want to hear the voice of the people, you have to dig a bit in your local “alternative” bookstore. You would think the voice of the people important, but it doesn’t seem to sell. There are many other small paperbacks out there along similar lines worth hunting down.

Breaking Away Literature

As I argue in my talk, the failed but shared assumption of all of the older literature is that an analysis of what is happening in the global economy is to be undertaken by analyzing nation-state economies and their interactions. Even though the World Bank, the IMF, and the WTO transcend nation-state economies, they still think and act in terms of nation-state economies. Nation-states continue to exist, but the cutting edge in globalization is, I think, the realization that the governance of nation-states has been transformed from the ideological purpose of defending its citizens into the purpose of fitting its business elite into the global economy. I only give two items here, but I think they are absolutely crucial for forming some idea of what is really going on, and what must be thought about now if the global economy is to be understood. You will notice that this work comes out of sociology, and not economics, probably because sociologists have tools for grasping social movements that are not contained in nation-states, although this sociological impulse needs some economic and philosophical attachments before it will be compelling to those who have not worked through the kind of literature already listed, and compared that literature to what they can learn from a sensitive scan of the news of the day. I do not explicitly list two books by Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, **Empire** (2000, Cambridge) and **Multitude** (2004, Penguin). These books describe a changed world economic structure (**Empire**) and what might be oppositional to that structure (**Multitude**) and have been very influential. Discussions of these books with others have convinced me that their very high level of abstraction tends to be filled in quite differently by readers with different points of view. For example, many readers of **Empire** seem to think that it describes a United States hegemony rather than a transnational corporate hegemony whose center is in the United State. Robinson (see below) has made this important distinction quite clear in his writings, and so I think that while coming to terms with the Hardt-Negri theoretical edifice is to be done, it is best done after reading the items listed below in this section and related items, so that some empirical triangulation on what Hardt and Negri have to say can occur while you are reading them. I only list two books in this section, but they are extremely important. You can branch out from the

references contained in these books to the wider literature you will want to read.

** Robinson, William I. 2003. **Transnational Conflicts**. Verso.

Absolutely central to starting to think about the global economy that is emerging. Robinson has a book in which he outlines his general theory of global capitalism (**A Theory of Global Capitalism** (2004), Johns Hopkins Press), but this study is interwoven with some extremely interesting empirical detail (mostly about Central America) and I now regard it as my personal cornerstone for thinking about the global economy. Robinson is particularly important for his suggestive analyses of the transformation of the nation-state in the new system from an operation supporting the citizens of the nation-state (at least in the ideology of the nation-state) to a new institution designed to support an indigenous transnational elite in its relationship to transnational elites in other transformed nation-state containers.

** Sassen, Saskia. 1996. **Losing Control?** Columbia University Press.

** Sassen, Saskia. 2000 (second edition). **Cities in a World Economy**. Pine Forge Press.

Sassen has been developing some exciting ideas about the place of megacities in the new global economy. In this volume, she discusses the loss of older forms of control by the nation-state, and some of the implications of that loss for the nation-state in the global economy. Here and elsewhere, Sassen develops the notion that cities have undergone a transformation under globalization in that they provide concentrations of services for transnational corporations that are essential to the global economy, and that the operations of these services cannot be captured in analyses that depend on the old notion of the nation-state as the container of economic systems. Do you remember when it was being said that cities were dying, and that suburbanization would cause city centers to become irrelevant? That certain cities with a role to play in the new economy have come back strong is one of the clues to what is happening that is skillfully exploited by Sassen.

Sklair, Leslie. 2001. **The Transnational Capitalist Class**. Blackwell.

Sklair works some of the same terrain as Robinson (see above). His work is, in my opinion, a little too cool and detached, and lacks the edge of Robinson's work, an edge that seems forced by the subject matter. Nonetheless, Sklair's references and notes, along with the other titles in this section, will allow one to work out to the full sociological literature.

Doo-Dads

Here's some stuff that doesn't fit easily anywhere above that you should also be aware of.

The Yes Men. 2004. New York: Disinformation Press.

This paperback volume comes without standard citation of authorship, but you should be able to find it. The Yes Men are anti-WTO agents who got a web domain name easily confused with the of the web site of the WTO. As a result, they received invitations (intended for the real WTO) to speak for the WTO at various conferences, which they accepted. They tried to give lectures so shocking that they would be hooted off the stage, but they discovered that they could not do it. The lectures are given in the book along with the reactions at the conferences. There is a DVD with the same title in which you can hear some of the lectures and see the reaction of the crowd. The only time they were in fact booed off the stage was at a small public college campus lecture. Don't miss this!

Bakan, Joel. (2004). **The Corporation**. Free Press.

This book argues that a corporation has, as an agent, the personality profile of a severe psychopath. There is also an interesting movie documentary version of this notion, with the same title, if you can find it.

Blunden, Bill. 2004. **Offshoring It**. Apress.

I include this title because it contains an interesting discussion of the kinds of jobs that are easy to outsource and the kinds of jobs that are difficult to outsource. Blunden notes that jobs requiring face to face contact are difficult to outsource. He misses a few, such as teaching, but the discussion is worth thinking through.

Pettis, Michael. 2001. **The Volatility Machine**. Oxford.

Baffling but interesting. The author argues that liquidity crises are the principal driving force behind global economic crises. I don't know how to evaluate it, but it is an interesting foil to the market and trading literature that I cite in the first section, and I was glad I read it.

De Soto, Hernando. 1989. **The Other Path**. Basic Books.

Based on experiences in Peru, the author argues that help for poor economies should be delivered not as large loans to central figures, but as direct support for developing local entrepreneurs. The book is a cult classic with certain right-wing market happy cults, but be aware of the argument.

Hart, Stuart. 2005. **Capitalism at the Crossroads**. Wharton School Publishing.

Wouldn't you know it? There are those who think that only business can solve the real problems of the world. Suppose business were to realize that global inequality is not sustainable, and that solution is to attack it by finding profit in producing for the needs of the poor. I thought this was implausible before I read this, and I still think so, but it's out there.

Ackermann, Robert John. 1996. **Heterogeneities**. University of Massachusetts Press.

After unsuccessfully struggling with my own modesty, I have decided to add one title from philosophy – mine – just in case you would like to look at some of my own social and political ravings. This was written before I started thinking about globalization, but the analysis of state and nation in the book still has legs with me, and I am trying to interweave it with what I have learned from Robinson and Sassen (see above) and others.

Final note:

If you wish to react to the lecture that you heard, or to this bibliography, you can reach me at the following e-mail address:

rjackerm@philos.umass.edu

There is a heavy filter on spam at this address that will result in the automatic deletion of your e-mail if your subject heading contains one of the forbidden words. May I suggest that you title any originating e-mail to me “Globalization”, as that will come through the filter just fine? I am retired and I have time, so I will respond.

Robert Ackermann
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(retired)