



GLOBAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Newsletter #17
May 2015

Issue Highlights:

- GSA 2015 Deadline
- Meet the author with Roland Robertson
- Rethinking Regions Workshop Report
- Conference Announcements

Conference deadlines

Please note that the deadline for submission of abstracts has been extended until **8th June 2015**.



Please also note that the deadline for registration for the conference (including booking accommodation) is **19th June**. View the [GSA webpage](#) for more information.

[Register for the conference here](#)

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GSA 2015: Meet the author

We are pleased to announce that the conference will include a 'meet the author' session with Roland Robertson, editor of *European Glocalization in Global Context* (Palgrave 2014).





GSA 2015: Meet the author (cont'd)



From the publisher: This highly original work applies the relatively new concept of glocalization to contemporary Europe. The opening and concluding chapters by Roland Robertson deal with Europeanization in an innovative way as a highly problematic process in relation to the changing position of Europe in the global arena. The individual authors are each experts in their own field. They include Ewa Moraska on migration; Debra Gimlin on beauty contests; Andrea Esser on European TV; Chris Kollmeyer on democracy; Victor Roudometof on European Christianity; Franciscu Sedda on the European imaginary; and Paulo Demuru on Brazilian football. These essays make a

concerted effort to relate European developments to the world as a whole, this being a highly neglected aspect of European studies. The range of this book's coverage, its theoretical innovativeness, and, not least, its discussion of European extremism renders it a unique contribution to the field in comparison with existing scholarship.

Roland Robertson has received global recognition for his work on globalization. He is one of the world's leading scholars in this area. His work has been translated into more than twenty languages and he has held positions at universities in numerous countries. His most prestigious publications include *Globalization: Social Theory and Global Culture* and *The Sociological Interpretation of Religion*.

The author will discuss the book with a panel comprising; Barrie Axford (Oxford Brookes), Maria Rovisco (Leicester) Darren O'Byrne (Roehampton), and Chris Rumford (Royal Holloway) as well as taking questions from the audience.

View book on publisher's [webpage](#)

Rethinking Regions: Global and Transnational Perspectives

Organized by the Centre for Global and Transnational Politics, Royal Holloway University of London

The workshop, which took place April 23rd at Royal Holloway in Egham, brought together a group of scholars working on diverse projects to reflect on alternative ways of understanding regionalism. The day saw two exciting panels divided by a keynote presentation by Dr. Ben Rosamond (University of Copenhagen).

Dr. Rosamond's tailored presentation - *Thinking and Rethinking Regionalism* - provided an examination of four different (and at other times dominant) approaches to the study of regionalism. His analysis highlighted a need not only for novel approaches but also for some reconsideration and synthesis of past approaches. Dr. Rosamond concluded with a series of prescriptions to benefit this aim including the need to develop a global social theory.





The first panel – *States and Non-State Actors in Regional (Geo)Politics* – began with a presentation from Dr. Robert Yates (Royal Holloway) which offered a novel conceptualization of ASEAN employing role theory to develop an ‘orchestral’ metaphor of regional politics, ASEAN playing the role of conductor. This was followed by a presentation from Freida M’Cormack (Institute of Development Studies) on the interconnected conflicts in West Africa and the failure of regional peace-building efforts to integrate the experience of ex-combatants. The presentation sought to adapt the New Regionalism Approach to include ex-combatants as neglected transnational actors. Dr. Mustafa Kutlay (TOBB, Ankara) reflected on the role of Turkey in regional politics and the shifting perspective of the Turkish state. Taking an approach based in political economy and highlighting the role of non-state economic actors, Dr. Kutlay explored the possibility and direction of transformation as a result of stalling economic progress within Turkey and uncertain stability in its near abroad. The first panel concluded with a presentation by Alistair Brisbane (Royal Holloway) examining the role of transnational cultural networks in the development of EU cultural policy. This exploration highlighted the influence of transnational networks on institutional discourse demonstrating the multiplicity of European spaces and complementarity of internal/external relations.



The second panel – *Ideas, Constructions and Practices* – turned its attention to the role of additional factors in the practice and study of regionalism. Dr. Iván Farías Pelcastre (University of Birmingham) discussed another region – North America – turning to problems with its conceptualization as a region. By returning to the core debate between functionalism and intergovernmentalism, Dr.

Pelcastre noted a limited ability in the literature to address the complexity of North American integration highlighting the need to understand the influence of transnational actors on integration processes. Franco Zappettini (Royal Holloway) presented a paper based on a study of alternative representations of Europe utilized by transnational actors. Focusing on in-depth interviewing his presentation demonstrated the significance that constructions of Europe play in connecting actors to global processes and/or cosmopolitan identities. Following this, Lyn Johnstone (Royal Holloway) offered some reflections on fieldwork in Rwanda and Zimbabwe. Her presentation explored the importance of values in defining the Commonwealth’s role in Africa by focusing on the withdrawal of Zimbabwe in 2003 and optimism within Commonwealth member-states of its eventual return. The workshop concluded with a presentation by Ibrahim Halawi (Royal Holloway), who raised skepticism around the use of the concept of regionness. Using the revolutions across North Africa and the Middle East – the ‘Arab Spring’ – as an example his presentation noted the possibility of reducing complex regional dynamics to one of homogeneity through a focus on ‘the region’. As such, academics should avoid theoretical generalization in favor of greater rigor and understanding of diverse realities.

The workshop generated valuable discussion around the prospect of understanding regions through various avenues often unexplored in prominent theoretical and conceptual approaches. We look forward to continued discussion on this theme and for ongoing collaboration.

Alistair Brisbane



Conference Announcements

Global Studies Association (USA), 14th Annual Conference

Globalization: The Urban Crisis and Economic Democracy

The University of Toledo

Toledo, OH

June 12 - 14, 2015

Sponsored by: College of Languages, Literature, and Social Sciences, President's Commission on Global Initiative, and Center for International Studies and Programs

To submit a 100-word abstract or a panel idea, send it in the body of an email to Jerry Harris at gharris234@comcast.net by May 10, 2015. Please include your full name and affiliation. All presentation topics will be considered.

[Register Here](#)



Global Studies Association

North America

The Network for critical studies of global capitalism

Third Bi-annual Conference

Social Movements and Conflicts in the Global Era

Prague, September 26 - 27, 2015.

Academic Conference Centre, Husova 4a, Prague 1, Czech Republic

Featuring Leslie Sklair on Global Capitalism and Transnational Capitalist Class Theory.

Abstracts on all topics touching on global capitalism should be sent to the Director of the Centre for Global Studies Marek Hrubec, at: marek.hrubec@gmail.com

Deadline August 10th

[Register Now](#)

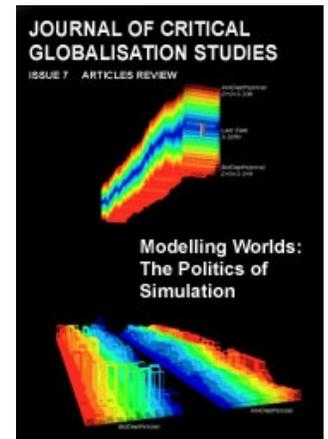




The Journal of Critical Globalisation Studies is a fully peer-reviewed, open-access, academic journal that invites contributors to challenge dominant ideas of globalisation. The journal seeks to bring cutting edge theoretical and critical reflection to bear on dominant and/or mainstream debates within the study of globalisation.

Editorial team: Nathan Coombs, Amin Samman, Angus Cameron and Chris Clarke

The JCGS is proud to announce the publication of issue 7, featuring articles and review by Pierre Pénét and Grégoire Mallard, Benjamin Braun, Matthew Watson, Angus Cameron, Ingrid M. Hoofd and Hubert Buch-Hansen. The next issue, 'Hard Cash', will be released later in 2014.



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GLOBAL STUDIES
ASSOCIATION

multidisciplinary social science

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The Global Studies Association (GSA) is a multi-disciplinary scholarly association set up in order to address the vast social, political and economic transformations of global scope which are impacting upon the world today. The GSA provides a forum for scholars to collaborate and explore shared responses to such phenomenon, particularly in the context of globalisation. The commitment to multidisciplinary and to the global context make the GSA unique in its aims and scope and thus offering its members invaluable contacts and connections. In addition, the thematic approach of the GSA allows interests which are not easily accommodated in single disciplinary associations to be fully recognised and encouraged. Thus individuals who share a common commitment to enhancing understanding of global life can find an intellectual home by working with others in the GSA.