



Globalization & Technology: The Impact on Work and Class

Danny Adams, Norfolk State University

Technology Revaluating Human Power Over/Under the Waiver of Control

In this presentation I initiate a critique of the extension of a Nietzschean system of values and ethics as underpinnings for the recent onset of anti-globalization sentiments and postures worldwide. A brief assessment identifies factors that give rise to the re-evaluation of governance and information communications as key components in fashioning a revised world order. As such these serve as variables to support the notion of humans serving as the connective organisms between animals and Ubermensch. Through evolution these processes help lead to the instantiation of the Ubermensch and are made manifest via education and technology. Although the search for objective truth would be misleading, frames of reference that correspond to the contemporary zeitgeist are inescapable and help establish validity. In this vein this presentation poses the very possibility of revaluating technology as inextricably linked to the human as being. Like the institutions of governance and information communications, technology is fashioning a revised world order that highlights and reflects the all-too-human nature of human beings.

Brett Aho and Roberta Duffield, University of California, Santa Barbara

Beyond Surveillance Capitalism: Privacy, Regulation & Big Data Strategies in Europe and China

Technology giants, bolstered by weak regulatory oversight in the neoliberal era, have dramatically expanded practices of personal data collection and analysis, producing new power dynamics and logics of accumulation collectively referred to as surveillance capitalism. Europe's General Data Protection Regulation is a reactive response to this emergent business model, asserting individual privacy and limiting corporate use of big data. In contrast, China's Social Credit System is a proactive response, combining surveillance architectures and AI technologies for purposes of statecraft. Using a comparative approach, we analyze the social and economic implications of two societies attempting to move beyond surveillance capitalism.

Madalla Alibeli, United Arab Emirates University

Levels of Tolerance toward Expatriate Groups in United Arab Emirates (UAE)

This study examines levels of tolerance toward expatriate groups in the UAE. Expatriates make up about 88 percent of the country's total population and about 98 percent of the work force in the private sector, which employs the vast majority of work-seeking individuals. With nationalist sentiments rising and anti-emigrants ideology soaring around the world, it is significant to investigate levels of tolerance of UAE nationals toward diverse expatriate groups in the country, and propose implementable recommendations to enhance such levels. To tackle such issues, Social Distance Scale was utilized and levels of tolerance were collected from a sample of UAE college students. The findings of the study could contribute to UAE public policy intended to enhance understanding and acceptance and promote tolerance in society.

Michael Anderson, The University of Texas at Austin

Teaching Global Studies beyond Globalization

Global Studies programs are proliferating in units of higher education around the country and worldwide in recent decades. Much of this curricula was based around the presumption of greater political, economic, and cultural integration and convergence by scholars writing in the 1990s and 2000s. With the return of trade wars, ethno-nationalist sentiment, and the retreat of democracy worldwide, what are the implications for teaching global studies? This presentation will draw from efforts in rethinking the undergraduate curriculum in Global Studies at The University of Texas at Austin as well as the recent completion of a new Global Studies textbook co-edited by the presenter.

Lee Artz, Purdue University Northwest***Technology and Class Power in the New International Division of Cultural Labor***

This investigation of developing transnational social relations of media production discovers that industry associations, the transnational flow of media production, and standardized news and entertainment content themes reflect competitive capitalist tensions along with a tendency towards cooperative joint ventures and partnerships. Coinciding with the restructuring of global capitalism, transnational media have organized a “new international division of cultural labor” based on digital technology and a global cultural labor precariat. Using examples from pan-Asian transnational media, this work demonstrates that the new transnational protocol for media production undermines the social power of labor and radically reduces democratic access to communication and information.

Rae Lesser Blumberg, University of Virginia***Gender, Technologies, and Work through History to Today's Globalized, Capitalist World System***

Interrelations between gender, technology, and work, from hunter-gatherers to today's Global South and North, have been influenced by four questions: 1. Is the technology/work combination compatible with simultaneous childcare; if not, is other suitable childcare readily available? 2. Is the technology/work not linked to upper-body strength (men have ~one-half more)? 3. Is the technology/ work combination labor-elastic? 4. In capitalist economies, are women less expensive workers (which can trump 1. and 2.)? This presentation recaps human history to today to explain where and in what women work. It adds whether women control income/fruits of production to predict their relative power.

Carl Boggs, National University***The Politics of Mass Surveillance***

The modern surveillance state, centered in the US and increasingly globalized, reinforces powerfully authoritarian trends in government, corporate, and military power. As C. Wright Mills emphasized many decades ago, these realms of power are integrated within advanced capitalist society. The modern surveillance system, one expression of technological rationality theorized by Marcuse and others, relies extensively on gathering, storing, processing, and interpreting flows of information related to every aspect of public and private life: personal movement, political activities, Internet transactions, bank accounts, individual habits, and more. I argue that this development is post-Orwellian insofar as surveillance has become global and unlimited; it is not simply a state function, but extends to corporations and the military; it has been rendered “voluntary” to some degree within the framework of social media; and it is fully aligned with the scope of American military power, which now extends into space and far exceeds anything Orwell might have envisioned in his book *1984*. The impact of all this on democracy, freedom, and privacy is now just beginning to be felt—and understood. Viewed thusly, the post-Orwellian society is one where the consequences of technological rationality go well beyond the theories of Orwell and Marcuse, bringing new nightmares while raising new intellectual and political challenges.

Michael Bowler, Winona State University***Bangladesh: The Impact of Technology on Work and Class***

My presentation seeks to stretch our conference theme into how technology obtained with globalization affects work and class in Bangladesh. Within a village in the southwest near the Indian border, despite the many technological innovations deployed, for the materially poorest families the inequality gap continues to grow although many are better off financially than twenty-five years ago. Even with more employment and much more digital technology with mobile phones and online money transfers, the impacts of climate change and the lack of health care for most threaten to mitigate the gains from work and the increasing value of land.

Long Bui, University of California, Irvine***The “Subject” of Robots: Connecting Automaton of Work to Asian Female Labor***

This presentation considers automation's transformation of work, changing our sense of who we are as human beings. Missing from this important conversation are the social identity meanings surrounding roboticism and who is most impacted. Exploring the ways Southeast Asian women have been historically racialized and gendered as robotic labor, I assess the whether the roboticization of factory work will complicate or exacerbate this archetype. By looking at corporate organizational practices and public media discourse, I argue that the conflation of such women with machinery will not simply vanish, but continue to affect the ways such subjects are rendered as exploitable.

Xu Cen, Purdue University Northwest***Analysis of China's Environmental Movement from the Perspective of Communication Studies***

Western developed countries have entered a social movement society, while China's research on social movement has just started. There are many small-scale and localized protests in China every year, but few systematic studies on social movements. The theoretical tools of the western scholars on social movement can be used for reference in China. This presentation applies western theoretical paradigms of social movements to the research of China's environmental movement using the rhetorical approach. The analyses focus especially on Xiamen PX (paraxylene) project event, Qidong against a paper mill incident and Shifang molybdenum copper project incident. The main purpose is that this study may help increase China's research on social movements, understand the environmental movement from a communication perspective, enhance the awareness of environmental protection of the country and citizens, and put forward suggestions for the development of China's environmental movement and other social movements in some ways.

Kenneth Sean Chaplin, John Carroll University***Cultural Racism, Neo-Nationalism, and its Global Implications on NFL Player Protesters: White Right-Wing Collegiate Student-Athletes' Responses to the US National Anthem Players' Protests***

The intersection of cultural racism, neo-nationalism, and its global implications is examined via a case study of white right-wing collegiate student-athletes' responses to the NFL Players' US National Anthem Protests. Symbolic Interactionism and Cultural Studies were used as theoretical frameworks to analyze two focus groups and thirty-two semi-structured interviews. My findings demonstrated forthright dialogue and discussions about race were avoided and guised by culture and neo-nationalism. Additionally, student-athletes rationalized beliefs about state's and corporation's rights to sanction protesters to control the labor market. Unsurprisingly, their beliefs about the freedoms and rights of all Americans swiftly subsided due to their white neo-nationalism, which (T)rumped the freedoms and rights of player protesters. I conclude with how their perspectives influenced their global stances, chiefly their covert assertion of racially unjust unequal labor market practices.

Jonathan Christiansen, Binghamton University***The Transnational Working Class and Counter Hegemonic Struggles***

I explore the ways in which the expansion of global capitalist forces, specifically the spread of the global assembly line and the increase in global labor migration, has laid the groundwork for an emergent global working class. With an emphasis on Marxian class theory, both the objective relations of production and subjective class interests, as well as the Gramscian model of class hegemony, I propose that growing transnational labor and activist organizations, as well as migrant networks, are a new counter hegemonic bloc which represent new leadership that is articulating a global class struggle.

Peter Cole, Western Illinois University***Dockworker Power: Race and Activism in Durban and the San Francisco Bay Area***

Workers in the world's ports can harness their role, at a strategic choke point, to promote their labor rights and social justice causes. Cole brings such overlooked experiences to light in an eye-opening comparative study of Durban, South Africa, and the San Francisco Bay Area, California. Path-breaking research reveals how unions effected lasting change in some of the most far-reaching struggles of modern times. First, dockworkers in each city drew on longstanding radical traditions to promote racial equality. Second, they persevered when a new technology--container ships--sent a shockwave of layoffs through the industry. Finally, their commitment to black internationalism and leftist politics sparked transnational work stoppages to protest apartheid and authoritarianism.

Richard W. Coughlin, Florida Gulf Coast University***Democratic Change and Neoliberalism: Evidence from Mexico***

What does democratic change mean for the continuity of neoliberalism in Mexico? In this presentation I review arguments that the war on drugs constructed a modality through which neoliberalism deepened in Mexico. In 2018, Mexican voters delivered a powerful rebuke to Mexico's major neoliberal parties—the PAN and the PRI—by electing Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO) and by giving his party, Morena, two-thirds majorities in both the Mexican House of Deputies and the Senate. AMLO is committed to demilitarizing security policy in Mexico. To what extent has this commitment materialized in the year since his election and has it (or can it) modify Mexico's trajectory of neoliberal development?

Cezara Crisan, Purdue University Northwest***Impact of Economic Globalization on Immigration from Eastern Europe: Transnational vs Circular Migration***

Based on the data collected as a part of a larger study, this presentation will discuss the implication of globalization on current emigration from Eastern European countries. It will address the distinction between transnational and circular migration to the US and respectively Western Europe. Migration from Eastern Europe was a response to the worsening economic conditions associated with the transition from a socialist economy to a capitalist market economy. Discriminatory labor markets also pushed women out of well-paid professions in their home countries and toward lower-paid, service-sector jobs and domestic labor in the host country. The trajectories of current migration are contingent upon migrants' level of human and social capital, variables also reevaluated in the era of globalization.

Carl Davidson, Editor, Leftlinks; founder, Online University of the Left***The Green New Deal: It Necessity, Its Components, and How to Win It***

The Green New Deal has been discussed for 20 years, and probably has at least that many definitions. Here I will present the essential core needed to halt CO2 levels in the atmosphere and curb the worse effects. Then I will address the structural changes needed in any society—preindustrial, industrial, post-industrial, capitalist, socialist—to sustain itself in harmony with the ecosystem with a livable habitat. Finally, I will present political strategy and tactics that might win these changes in good time.

Derek Drenckpoh, Illinois State University***Globalization and its Impact on Student Affairs in Italy***

The oldest Western university was founded in Bologna, Italy in 1088, yet Italy's higher education system has fallen behind other countries in the modern era. I examine Italy's system in terms of how it fits into global systems of higher education. Demographic, socio-cultural, political, and economic data will be used to better understand how social factors have affected Italy's system. The historical development of the country's tertiary education system will be highlighted to understand how the structural organization of its HEIs was created, as well as the reforms and transformations that have taken place since its inception. Italy's student Personnel organization, and the challenges this sector continues to face, will be addressed to better understand the role that it plays in Italy's higher education system. Brain drain is a significant issue driving many of the recent reforms, and an analysis to see if these reforms, along with increased student affairs programming, have improved recruitment and retention of Italian students in domestic colleges and universities will be included. Ultimately, this work aims to better understand Italy's place in the global higher education hierarchy, and what it can do to improve its standing.

Jordan Dyett and Nick Jensen, Westminster College***Global Capitalism and Labor in SE Asia and Mexico***

With globalization as a catalyst, hegemonic powers dependent upon neoliberal capitalism continue to exploit resources, locations, and human bodies for economic benefit. This research explores how states and corporations strategically force the bodies of many already vulnerable populations into further lives of precarity, all to extract surplus value to feed the capitalist machine. Employing World Systems and Decolonial Theory we seek to uncover the paths that corporations take to cut corners, exploit human labor, and avoid regulation, all in the name of profit. Specifically, we will be comparing the evolution of the Semiconductor Industry in Southeast Asia with the Maquiladoras in Mexico to illuminate the methodical exploitation of labor and the earth in the name of economic gain.

Ifeanyi Ezeonu, Brock University, St. Catharines, Canada***Capital Accumulation and Public Health Challenges in the Nigerian Petroleum Extraction Industry: Lessons on Market Criminality***

Petroleum exploration started in Niger Delta territories of what is known today as Nigeria in the early 20th Century as part of the expansive process of primitive accumulation instituted by British colonial administration to advance its economic interest. Since petroleum resources were discovered in commercial quantities in the region in 1956, transnational extraction corporations in collaboration with the emergent domestic compradors have plundered the resource wealth. While decades of crude oil and gas production in the region have enormously enriched the captors of the petroleum industry, the host communities have suffered debilitating economic and health implications. In this presentation I discuss the public health challenges resulting from this predatory political economy, along the lines of a burgeoning body of literature which conceptualizes preventable market-driven harms as criminal.

Leonardo E. Figueroa Helland, The New School, NY

Cole Cooper, Westminster College, Utah

Beyond a Disabling Globalization: Critical, Decolonial and Indigenous Pathways beyond the Health Crisis of the Anthropocene

We examine the intersecting ways in which a globalized capitalism, coupled with its particularly alienating, instrumentalist, and exploitative modes of technological mastery, has led to an Anthropocene convergence of planetary crises that are particularly manifest through profound disruptions to the health of people and the planet. This health crisis, ultimately attributable to the metabolic rift between dominant modes of production and the biocultural web of life that enables both socioecological reproduction and Earth System viability, is particularly salient in the proliferation of so-called “diseases of (capitalist/neoliberal) globalization” or “diseases of (Eurocentric) modernity,” particularly non-communicable diseases and mental health disorders. These troubling trends, often resultant from the globalization of unhealthy modes of production, exchange, consumption, and waste, are coupled with the detrimental role of neoliberalism in eroding public health provision, first in the Global South and the former Eastern bloc, but increasingly also in the Global North.

Leonardo E. Figueroa Helland and Abigail Perez Aguilera, The New School, NY

Techno-Utopia and the Ecocidal Tendencies of the Anthropocene: Ecofeminist and Indigenous Challenges to Capitalist Globalization

Globalization is associated with utopian fantasies of technological mastery where toil is relieved by a totalizing mechanization and automation of life, and where nature's complexity and the Earth's as a whole is rendered docile to human technological rationality. Yet under this utopian fantasies, lie dystopian tendencies built on racialized, gendered, and colonial forms of systemic and manifest violence. Capitalism's cycles of accumulation by dispossession rely on the continuous substitution of technologically intensive modes of production and accumulation for socioecological reproductive forms of human labor. This leads to the commodification and degradation of nature, its absorption into global capital circuits and the dispossession, devaluation and erosion of labor historically undertaken by women, indigenous peoples, and small-scale food producers. These tendencies, which have historically destroyed ecosystems and cultures, leading to the decline of biocultural diversity and today's Anthropocene environmental and forced displacement crises, are today manifest in renewed rounds of land, ocean, and water grabs.

Amber Fletcher, University of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

“Deep Vulnerability”: Identifying the Structural Dimensions of Climate Change Vulnerability in Argentina, Canada, and Colombia

Drawing on an intercontinental study of climate change vulnerability and adaptation in Argentina, Canada, and Colombia, this presentation discusses the structural, political-economic determinants of vulnerability that persist across three very different agricultural contexts. Interviews with over 300 farmers and rural residents reveal that neoliberalism—a deeply rooted political-economic structure—is a major root cause of climate vulnerability in all three countries. Our focus on structural determinants of vulnerability is inspired by a Critical Realist approach and stems from a general criticism of overly individualized and technocratic approaches to climate adaptation.

Shankar Ghimire, Western Illinois University

Globalization and the US Economy: An Analysis of Outsourcing and Labor Market Restructuring

This presentation analyzes globalization and its impact on the US economy. In particular, it focuses on the impact of increased outsourcing from the US on the share of skilled, employed workers, a highly debated issue since the Great Recession. The issue is examined for the period 1992 - 2008 using the Vector Error Correction Model. The impulse response functions show a positive relationship between outsourcing and the share of skilled workers in the US. This suggests that outsourcing leads to a higher proportion of jobs going to educated workers. The variance decompositions, however, suggest the majority of the change in the share of employed skilled workers is due to supply side changes, namely an increase in the educated labor force, and not because of outsourcing.

Lauren Gray, Illinois State University***Global Trends of Student Affairs in Finland Higher Education***

The purpose of my presentation is to examine the structure and division of student affairs in Finland's higher education system. A brief information on Finland's geography, educational attainment, culture, politics, and economy will be provided as background introduction. I will explore issues relating to student affairs, such as its development, organization, staff training, services offered and funding. In addition, I will examine issues relating to student affairs, such as its development, organization, staff training, services offered and funding. Finally, I will explore the challenges of student affairs professionals and their relationships with academic affairs and governmental agencies. Overall, this information will lead to a greater understanding of the global forces on Finland's higher education system. There is also an exploration of the challenges of student affairs professionals and their relationships with academic affairs and governmental agencies. Overall, this information will lead to a greater understanding of the global forces on Finland's higher education system.

Russell Hall, Purdue University***Livestock, Ecosocialism, and Climate Change***

Meat consumption is a key driver of climate change and biodiversity loss. Yet ecosocialists have been largely silent and, in some cases, dismissive of efforts to address this issue. This position is paradoxical because reducing meat consumption is necessary to combat climate change, and dovetails nicely with ecosocialist values. In this presentation I discuss the scientific evidence on livestock's impact on climate change, the limited ecosocialist writings on livestock and climate change, and the dialectics of livestock production. I conclude with a call to action on this critical environmental threat, outlining actions ecosocialists can take to reduce livestock's contribution to climate change.

Jerry Harris, Organizational Secretary, Global Studies Association of North America***Financial Technology and the Organization of Global Capitalism***

The organization of global finance would be impossible without the connectivity and speed of information/communication technologies. This technology was developed in the same period that capitalism entered a crisis of accumulation in the 1970s. Applied to financialization the new technologies allowed a global centralization of capital, enabled the breaking of the social contract with labor, and helped lead to the formation of the transnational capitalist class.

Gary Hingham, Illinois State University***Higher Education, Globalization and Student Affairs in Ireland***

I will explore the role Student Affairs play within higher education in Ireland. I will also provide a brief background about political, economic, and cultural in Ireland. In addition, I will provide recommendations about the best practices for student services in Ireland higher education systems.

Peter Hudis, Author of *Frantz Fanon, Philosopher of the Barricades****Class, Race, and Automation: The Struggle for Recognition in Light of the Logic of Capital***

It has long been recognized that capital contains an inexorable internal logic—that of replacing the relative proportion of living labor to dead labor (machines, automated devices, and now artificial "intelligence") in the social reproduction process. Much less theorized, however, is the impact of this process on issues of race and racism. In this presentation I explore, by discussing some of the previously unavailable psychiatric writings of Frantz Fanon (contained in the new collection *Alienation and Freedom*), the ways in which the logic of capital impacts issue of identity and social consciousness by victims of racism. Specifically, as the logic of capital displaces more workers from the process of production and reproduction, capitalism's contractual form of appearance—that is, the "free" exchange of labor power for wages—is progressively undermined.

Gary Hytrek, California State University, Long Beach***Borrowing and Building: Social Justice Movements and Neoliberal Restructuring, The Case of Long Beach, California***

Cities have become strategically central sites for a variety of neoliberal policy experiments to mobilize city space for market-oriented economic growth, while securing order and control of the marginalized populations. Managing these responsibilities is arguably easier for larger cities; yet the regional urban spaces within which smaller cities exist suggest these cities can accrue benefits beyond size through proximity or networks to larger cities. In effect, many regional second cities “borrow size” to economically out-perform larger national or regional cities in both the US and Europe. Absent in the literature is the potential social justice performance benefits of proximity to larger social movement-rich cities. In this presentation, we apply the “borrowed size” concept to explore potential for and challenges to justice movement building in Long Beach, CA, the second largest city in Los Angeles, CA, and the third largest city in the southern half of California.

Judy Khaliah, Illinois State University***Brazil - Higher Education and Student Affairs***

This presentation examines Brazil’s educational structure giving the basis of the elementary level, which lays the foundation leading to its higher educational system. It will also include how the population and demographics of Brazil affects the development of their higher education. Their limited business opportunities also play a role in the country’s advancement, which is a strong component to their economy, and contribute to financing their higher educational system. This study will reveal the close-to-non-existent student services in the Brazilian higher education, and notes how students maneuver without the help of student affairs professionals or student services entity while navigating their college life. Brazilian’s higher educational system focuses more on academics versus student development and social integration. More emphasis is placed on academics without much concern directed towards the non-academic challenges that students may face, such as sports involvement, or belonging to student groups such as those of fraternity or sorority life.

Thomas Kleiner, Webster University***Blue-Collar Work in the Age of Digital Electronic Technology***

Driven by digital technology we risk losing our ability to think, reason, and solve problems. Statistical software packages eliminate the need to memorize simple calculations, street addresses in GPS devices take us to our destinations, but may have ignored more direct, logical routes; we may have forgotten or never learned phone numbers of family and friends since storing them in our smartphones. Framed in context of the workplace and information communication technology (ICTs), this is the ontology of digital technology and cognitive substitutes from the lens of a blue-collar, heavy railroad scale inspector using an array of machine and digital age technologies as tools. Globally, this is where jobs are increasingly being lost to the allure of the technology gods.

Lauren Langman, Loyola University***Techno Capitalism and its Discontents***

According to Suarez Villa, “techno-capitalism is a new form of capitalism that is heavily grounded in corporate power and in the exploitation of technological creativity. It is comprised of individual sectors that depend on innovative technologies, information, creativity, or what has become to be known as the ‘knowledge economy’ in contrast to the economy of industrial production primarily devoted to creating products.” These new technologies include AI, robotics, automation, etc. that are now integral to industrial production, biotechnology/pharmaceuticals, banking and finance, retailing, and online merchandising like Amazon or Alibaba. Indeed, digital technologies are increasingly used to provide professional services, such as law, medicine, architecture, etc. And while contemporary techno capitalism as an integral moment of neoliberal mobilization has produced vast wealth—for the elite owners and managers’ transnational capital—and a variety of heretofore unavailable products and services. Think of your computer or cell phone. Nevertheless, it has many downsides, its inherent contradictions impel pellets transformation. It fosters unemployment, perhaps unlike previous systems of capitalism, it may not produce greater number of jobs that over time, increased the standards of living of workers. Secondly, it has fostered a variety of cultural changes that have, in conjunction with economic uncertainties, engendered a variety of social movements progressive and reactionary.

Jake Lin, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies***Political Compromise or Complicity: The Psyche of Resistance from the Chinese Sweatshop of the World***

Why has the contemporary Chinese labor activism failed to engender transformative social and political change? One obvious answer is that the resilient authoritarian state has continuously ramped up its efforts to stifle labor movements. This presentation takes the focus back to the workers themselves. The spirit of resistance matters. Using a psychological and cognitive approach, I examine workers and activists' everyday interpretation of the source of their problems, their prospect of labor movements, and their sense of solidarity. I seek to show how Chinese workers from the sweatshop of the world have themselves become a part of the apparatus of state repression by their conscious participation in acts of resistance. I argue that Chinese workers have not acquired sufficient cognitive strength to become the much hoped-for agent for political change. The Chinese working class has fallen into a "psychic trap" that hinders labor activism from developing further into sustainable social movement.

Edwin Lopez, California State University, Fullerton***Transcending Local Justice Organizing through Social Media in the Movement to Stop the Dakota Access Pipeline***

I examine how water protectors utilized social media to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline. Critical to this analysis is how local organizers used Facebook, Twitter, and many more online platforms to disseminate facts and counter-logics, enhance networks, and mobilize actions. In doing so, they linked their resistance to both a longstanding historic struggle, as they did to a contemporary one that was that both unique and intersectional, local and extra-local, material and psychic. I argue that the use of social media served to 1) validate and reinforce local actions and 2) extend a localized indigenous-led movement to a global level.

Deepa Majumdar, Purdue University Northwest – Westville***Technology and Class in Post-Colonialism***

Through post-colonial trade relations, globalization has caused a world-wide division of labor, resources, and consumption—between former colonizers and the colonized. Technology—the latest in the choir of idols worshipped by the modern west—adds to this schism even as it reduces it. Technological products, which express the amoral power of nature, can have moral impacts. This presentation explores the implications of the products of technology for work and class in this last phase of post-colonialism. Technological devices that de-class us by replacing human and animal workers, also re-class us by dividing owners from operators of machines.

Ben Manski and John Foran, University of California Santa Barbara***Toward Climate Democracy***

The Earth is in peril today, the climate destabilized, and democracy under assault. We find ourselves in a vicious crisis of unprecedented depth, facing unknown consequences, and unable to count on existing institutions of global governance to save us. Under these conditions, it behooves scholars, policymakers, and activists to bring every idea that offers hope into better focus, and to initiate conversations with all interested parties about paths forward to survival and beyond, to the sort of "everything change" that Naomi Klein and others point to as the most promising way to think about our common dilemma. In this regard, we recognize rising demands for "climate democracy." We consider climate democracy's emergence as a social movement frame, discursive political culture, policy package, and constitutional politics operating synchronously at both local and global levels. Furthermore, we relate climate democracy across each of these dimensions to climate justice, energy and ecological democracy, global democracy, and the rights of nature/Mother Earth, as well as to historic traditions of world federalism, internationalism, anti-imperialism, and radical global social transformation. As scholars and activists engaged in climate and democracy praxis, our purpose is to further the practical articulation, usefulness, and visibility of climate democracy.

Sarah Manski, University of California Santa Barbara

Distributed Ledger Technologies (Blockchains) and the Future of Labor Markets

Technological innovation can be viewed as a movement of resistance producing a radical alternative to the failures of the current global economic system. Technologists are looking at the problems of capitalism and designing technologies in the creation of new economic spaces. Blockchain technology, a form of distributed ledger technology (DLT), was created in response to the perceived failure of large financial institutions and governments to protect the value of a currency. Now more than a decade later technologists are using DLTs to solve the problem of uncompensated labor. How will DLTs shape the future of labor markets? This presentation begins to address this question by considering how movement technologists are utilizing DLTs' affordances to radically expand the commodification of personal behavior.

David McBride, Pennsylvania State University

Globalization and the Historic Preservation of Black American Working-Class Community Heritage in De-Industrialized Cities

The spread of global economic forces throughout US cities has run parallel with the growth of historic preservation projects and museums mostly in upscale areas of these same cities. Government and private agencies have invested heavily in 'development' preservation of old buildings and grounds as well as ethnic group history, including African American history. The goals of these investment initiatives are to expand the local tourism economies and, to varying degrees, the public recognition of cultural heritage. I explore preservation resources in black working-class production and residential areas of American cities, examining cities such as New Orleans, New York, and Philadelphia to provide case examples of key preservation projects—buildings, public art, and historically-marked places that illuminate the interface and power dynamics of economic gentrification and labor community heritage.

Ligaya McGovern, Indiana University, Kokomo

Neoliberalism, Militarism, and the Labor Movement in the Philippines

The Philippines has a strategic, geopolitical significance in discussion about militarism and responses from the labor sector and other sectors of civil society. When talking about militarism and labor we cannot dismiss the fact that militarism and neoliberalism are two sides of the same coin. The economic project of neoliberalism is to expand capitalism globally, and such a project requires the creation of cheap, disposable, flexible "global labor" and the construction of neoliberal states that will imbed neoliberal policies in their economic and political development under the control of transnational corporations, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization. Regional formations such as the ASEAN, NAFTA, and the EU become instruments to maintain global capitalism. The promoters of neoliberalism know that the subtle and aggressive global expansion of capitalism by "accumulation through dispossession" will generate resistance from those who are most hurt in the process: the workers, the working class women, indigenous people, the peasants, and the poor. To contain their resistance, the neoliberal states resort to militarization, ultimately done in defense of capital. Thus, state militarism is a manifestation of the partnership of state and global capitalism under neoliberal regimes.

Florence Molk, St. Lawrence University

Policing and Social Control under Global Capitalism

In mainstream interpretation, globalization is segmented as either (a) a self-regulating-market neoliberal reincarnation, (b) an innovative regime of Information Communication Technology (ICT), or (c) a reorganization of production on a world scale. In contrast to the mainstream view, I contend that globalization is substantively the process of institutionalizing policing—a salient phenomenon integrating social-identity, social-control, and social-relation. Globalization, from policing angle of vision, is the culmination of the secular trend of the modern world-system. By reinventing social-identities, re-intensifying social-controls, and re-engineering social-relations through policing, globalization heralds the terminal crisis of the system.

Ali M. Nizamuddin, University of Illinois Springfield***Food Politics: How Corporations Manipulate Nature and Our Food Choices***

What we eat, the quality of our food, and even the tastes that we develop are dictated by powerful corporations who are driven by the profit motive. My book, *The Patenting of Life, Limiting Liberty and the Corporate Pursuit of Seeds*, investigates the corporate dominance of the world's seed supply. The seed is nature's gift and the first link in the food chain. This life form is becoming the exclusive intellectual property of the corporation. The advent of genetically modified seeds and strict patent protection accorded to them enable companies to own the seed even after the farmer has bought, planted, and harvested the seed. Multinational corporations have a monopoly control over seeds and the accompanying pesticides, which is leading to monocultures in the food system and the disappearance of traditional methods of farming. Local producers are forced to buy seeds each year, fostering a feudalistic relationship of perpetual dependence. An imbalance of power has emerged and farmers are transformed from producers to consumers by these new arrangements. The leap to embrace biotechnology and genetically modified foods has been quite swift and conducted without the public's knowledge. The food that our stomachs ingest may be increasingly bad for us.

Mohamed A. Nur-Awaleh, Illinois State University***Associate and Assistant Deans in the Middle East: Careers, Roles and Responsibilities in Gulf Region Universities***

Associate and assistant deans appear to play a central part in the administration of most universities in US, but it is also becoming important part of many universities the Gulf Region, although there is no research on this group in the Gulf Region. One reason for this lack of knowledge is although associate and assistant deans may have considerable decision-making autonomy, they virtually always act in the name of another (the dean). They tend to influence more than decide, to implement policy more than to make it. Their authority, while often extensive, is usually delegated. By comparison, to US associate and assistant deans, the research on department chairs is quite rich and a department chair, though technically "outranked" by an associate dean, often officially has more independent power and responsibility. However, our research suggests that, because of the work they do and their positions in organizational hierarchies, the de facto influence of assistant and associate deans far exceed their de jure power. Consequently, an understanding of university academic management is aided by a fuller knowledge of how associate and assistant deans function in colleges' administrative structures in the Gulf region, especially Qatar University and United Arab Emirates University.

David Peetz, Griffith University***Financialization, the labor share and the extraction of value by finance capital in OECD countries***

This presentation asks: has financialization increased inequality by enabling a redistribution of income from the rest of the economy to finance capital? It is based on analysis of estimates of finance capital's shares in industry factor income and national factor income, mostly from the 1970s or 1980s to early/mid 2000s, using national accounts data for several countries with data available from the OECD statistics portal, and focusing on shares in national income of gross operating surplus and compensation of employees in the finance and 'industrial' sectors. There is a particular emphasis on liberal market economies, but also investigation of some coordinated market economies. It appears that, in the US: finance profit as share of GDP rose after early 1980s; while the profit share (vs employees) within finance rose, the profit share in industrials experienced a smaller increase; and of the national fall in labor share between 1987-90 & 2008-11, over half (~53%) went to finance profits, and just under half (~47%) to industrial profits. Other LMEs studied had experiences broadly similar to the US, with some differences in detail, but CMEs had more complex experiences. Overall, financialization has been a means for finance capital to transfer surplus to itself, despite probably no more resources being involved in finance than several decades ago. This transfer occurred at the expense of labor, or sometimes even capital in other industries, and 'neoliberal' policies especially in LMEs have helped in redistribution of income to finance capital.

David Peetz and Georgina Murray Griffith University***Issues arising from advances in biotechnology: The implications of digital implants for wage inequality, control at work, collectivism and policy***

Much attention has been focused on how robots can increasingly perform tasks undertaken by humans, and the intensification of this capacity through the emergence of artificial intelligence. Little, if any, attention has been given to what happens when the two are integrated: that is, when humans and AI or computer networks are linked. Yet this is exactly where new developments in biotechnology will take us. Already, technology enables brains of rats in different continents to be electronically linked. Considerable resources, from university and private scientists and globally-oriented corporations such as Elon Musk's Neuralink, are being put into developing this technology for broader application across human beings. This has major potential long-term implications for work, inequality, and society. After discussing the implications for income inequality, this presentation considers the consequences, for collectivism and control at work and in society at large, of widespread adoption of digital implant ('neural lace' or 'cyborg') technology, and the important choices that arise.

Peter Phillips***Giants: The Global Power Elite***

My new book, *Giants: The Global Power Elite*, follows in the tradition of C. Wright Mills' work *The Power Elite*, which was published in 1956. Like Mills, I am seeking to bring a consciousness of power networks affecting our lives and the state of society to the broader public. Mills described how the power elite were those "who decide whatever is decided" of major consequence. Sixty-two years later, power elites have globalized and built institutions for preserving and protecting capital investments everywhere in the world.

Tom Pollard, National University***The New Technology, Big Data, and Media Culture***

Pop culture increasingly depicts dystopian techno worlds in which intelligent advertisements invade our privacy, elite beings sense all thoughts and actions, and supercomputers plot to wipe out humanity. Each of these scenarios reflects Big Data. Film and television plots now depict "data mining," a new industry analyzing massive troves of data generated by social media, business transactions, and the Internet of Things. Hacked modes of surveillance and personal, corporate, and government data bases represent huge informational troves, now "the world's most valuable resource." This presentation explores predictive data analytics as depicted in movies, television, and the Internet.

David Robinson, External Affairs Director, Manufacturing Renaissance***Inclusion & Industry 4.0: Advanced Manufacturing's relationship to an Inclusive Social Strategy***

My presentation will cover why manufacturing matters to communities, to the economy, and to the environmental sustainability of the planet. I will explore how manufacturing is changing and how we should prepare to embrace these changes for the people rather than just for limited wealth acquisition. I will discuss why industrial policy matters. I hope to explain how inclusive industrial policy, guided by the EU's Industry 4.0 framework, can help advance a manufacturing eco-system that serves all communities. Finally, I shall present some ideas for next steps.

Veronica Robinson, University of North Carolina, Charlotte***Globalization, Industrialization, and Technology - Why doesn't Africa have its own Amazon.com, BP, Sinopec Group or Uber?***

Globalization and technology have made it possible for 500 top fortune global companies to get bigger and wealthier with a combined revenue of \$30 trillion and profits rising to \$1.9 trillion in 2018. Significantly, in spite of Africa's rising number of affluent consumers and a consumer market of over one billion people none is an African global company or African owned. A handful of African companies were listed as going global in 2013, but how global have they become? I contend that Africa's attempt to technologically and industrially advance is hampered by globalization, which is continuously exacerbating the industrial and technological gap between the advanced nations and the African countries. Instead of the continent advancing, it has become seriously hampered and ever more dependent on advanced nations' mega-corporations and their technologies. In this new phase of globalization, the continent is technologically landlocked with no route to escape. There has to be a shift, and, in order for Africa to achieve sustainable development, it must not only enhance its level of commitment and engagement in intra-African trade, but must also pursue protectionist policies in the domain of international trade.

Amber Schmidt, Illinois State University***Globalization, Student Affairs and Romanian Higher Education***

I will examine the impact of Globalization on Romanian higher education system. I will provide a brief description of population demographics, political framework, and Romania's current economic status. In addition, I will also assess the strengths and weaknesses of Romanian Higher Education since the collapse of Communism in 1989. Finally, I will focus on student affairs, examining areas such as the organizational structure of student affairs, issues and challenges related to the department, management issues with technology within student affairs, services offered, and the how student services are funded. The relationships between student affairs and internal and external stakeholders such as academic affairs, Ministry of Education, and government agencies will also be addressed, and I will evaluate global issues faced by the Romanian higher education system today.

David Schweickart, Loyola University, Chicago***Against Democracy, the Libertarian Right and Climate Denialism***

Why is the libertarian Radical Right so successful at blocking action on climate change when they represent a relatively small segment of the capitalist class? Because this segment is vastly more organized than any capitalist segment that takes climate change seriously. And it's a bit of an historical accident that this segment was inspired and guided by a libertarian ideology of a brilliant fossil-fuel mega-billionaire and his Nobel Laureate comrade.

Clodine Mbuli Shei, University of Regina, Canada***Agriculture induced climate change effects on Food insecurity on Cameroon***

There is interconnectedness between plantation agriculture, climate change, and the state of food security in Africa south of the Sahara. The current state of plantation agriculture in the global South suggests the existence of a vicious circle of low productivity and deprivation that exacerbates the vulnerability of small farmers who largely depend on rain-fed agriculture to feed their families and nations. Plantation agriculture in Cameroon is largely controlled by multinational corporations whose production principally ignores local for international market though at the cost of environmental degradation. We argue that globalization creates conditions that promote export-led agriculture, which nonetheless increase the vulnerability of peasant farmers in Cameroon to both the effects of climate change and food insecurity.

Fran Shor, Emeritus Professor, Wayne State University***The Rise & Fall of the Poletown Auto Plant: Capital Fixes and State Policies in a Global Economy***

General Motors recently announced its corporate decision to close the Poletown auto plant, one of five North American plants to be shut down. Established in the early 1980s in the midst of concessions, strike-breaking, and neoliberal globalization, the Poletown plant encountered community resistance in the face of local political and union collusion. The almost 40-year trajectory of the Poletown plant will be critically reviewed in the context of Harvey's analysis of the fixes (spatial, technological, and administrative) of capital. Those fixes, enabled or constrained by policies promoted by the state and the political willpower of worker/community resistance, will also be situated within the push and pull of the global economy.

Itai Sneh, John Jay College, NY***Deja vous: dégage ment vs. fin de sicle***

In these disruptive times globally, anxiety caused by advancement of technology, especially artificial intelligence, in upper classes while poor people remain further behind, is compounded by aggressive iterations of nationalism. Many ordinary people disengage from politics and/or distrust all policy-makers (dégagement). Looking back at historical patterns is instructive. Alarmingly, over a hundred years ago, at the turn of the 19th Century to 20th Century, an era known as the fin de sicle, similar tensions led to a rise in conflicts, domestic and international alike. These problems culminated in the outbreak of WWI. My presentation will address what lessons progressive activists advocate. Particular focus will be on how to support a socially-conscious agenda over misplaced patriotism; how to promote education over partisan echo chambers; and how to guide political systems to protect vulnerable people.

Alan Spector, Purdue University Northwest***Global Authoritarianism-Global Racisms***

It is not coincidental that authoritarian regimes are taking power and authoritarian movements are gaining strength in such disparate parts of the world as the Philippines, Russia, Poland, Brazil, and Hungary. It is also not coincidental that these regimes, and similar movements in other countries that are gaining power, rely on various forms of ethnic-race-religious exploitation and demagoguery to economically benefit the wealthy and distract one section of the working class to attack another section. While the psychological and cultural aspects of these movements are important, the roots of these movements lie in the systemic problems of late capitalism, despite superficial analyses that say that capitalism today operates from a position of fundamental strength.

Gerald Sussman***America's Troll Farm Media***

This study examines the uses of managed press in the coverage of foreign affairs. As Herman and Chomsky and others have observed, mainstream (corporate) media in the US have long been instruments of state power. At the same time, the public has relied on the media as a whole as a pillar of liberal democratic society. In the sphere of world news reporting, major news media—television networks, the big city press, newsweeklies, and news agencies—in the 1950s and '60s had bureaus in many parts of the world. The 1970s, however, marked a new era with the onset of neoliberal media conglomeration and industrial-media megamergers fostered by a wave of deregulation initiatives in Congress. The public service ideology behind news and public affairs disappeared, with TV news divisions now having to operate on a profit margin and giving way to the huge debt obligations taken on by leveraged buyouts. More recently, the public has expressed their dismay with where the stenographers of corporate capitalism have taken us. A recent Gallup poll found that while 84% of Americans see media as "critical" or "very important" to democracy, only 28% see the corporate news media as actually supporting democracy.

Harry Targ, Purdue University***The Material Reasons for the Current Interest in Socialism***

The twenty-first century economic reality has created a new class society with a dominant class of concentrated wealth at one extreme and a growing class of economically insecure in the other. More and more of those in the latter have become political activists, particularly among the young. This new class society in the US parallels similar economic changes in both rich and poor countries. As a result of the changes in global and domestic economies social movements have arisen everywhere. From Cairo, Egypt to Madison, Wisconsin, from Greece to Chile, from Syriza and Podemos to the Sanders campaign, the cry for change, often a demand for socialism, is spreading. The outcome of this new activism is unclear, but for the first time in a long time, the prospects for positive social and political change look promising.

Harry Targ, Purdue University***Neoliberalism and the Crisis of 21st Century Higher Education***

Higher education, once dominated by theological pursuits, was refashioned to serve the needs of modern capitalist society in the 20th century. The neoliberal phase of capitalism, particularly dawning in this century has seen the rise of STEM fields, narrow quantitative measures of performance, increasing competition for enrollment and research dollars, cheapening of the academic work force, a horrific student debt system, and increased global competition for status rankings. Through all this, the university as a global institution is taking on the financial and cultural impacts on a global basis almost comparable to banks, multinational corporations, and military forces.

Julie C. Tatlock, Mount Mary University***Student Learning Objectives in a Globalized World***

The relationship between globalization and the job market has directly contributed to a questioning of traditional academic paths. We now live in a world where expertise has been devalued and where students are told from a very young age that they must prepare only for one career. This is despite the fact that most people will transition jobs with great frequency. Liberal Arts programs have been decimated across academia. The result is that in a world that calls for more cultural empathy and international competence, students are learning less about other places and peoples. Not only does this create underprepared job seekers, but it is also playing a role in the increasing gap between classes.

Darryl C. Thomas, Pennsylvania State University***Black Studies/Black Labor, Resistance, Racial Capitalism & Globalization in the 21st Century: From the Obsolescence of Black Labor/Labor to Robotics/Artificial Intelligence and the Disappearance of Work***

This presentation interrogates the work of C.L.R. James, O.C. Cox, Walter Rodney, Cedric J. Robinson, and Manning Marable to examine key events in the past and contemporary moments that exemplify Global Africans resistance to racial capitalism through Pan African Revolts and Black Internationalism. I chronicle how Africa and African Diasporas' rejected the idea that they were mere commodities and subject people without a history and social agency employing the tools of Black Studies/black radical tradition to sort out the divergent forms of resistance and their challenges to American/Western knowledge construction. Then, I turn to the impact of technology in making Black Labor redundant through deindustrialization, automation and relocation key production to the Global South. Next, I examine how technology and artificial intelligence is leading the disappearance of labor creating class cleavages in metropolitan/nonmetropolitan regions in the Global North and Global South.

Chuks Ugochukwu, St Cloud State University, MN***Contradictions of Technology in the Global South***

The UN has highlighted impacts of globalization that trend towards negative aspects, i.e. widening income gaps, employment issues and attendant poor wages, and labor rights problems. The same impacts can be said of technological advances, i.e. digital financial transactions that has effectively diminished human role. Residents of developed nations decry these negative impacts and the inherent inequalities. To them, the benefits that globalization and technological advances supposedly brought is minimal. For the poor and rural communities these advances has made possible leap frog into modernity that couldn't have been possible otherwise, and is very much welcomed.

George Vargis and Salli Vargis, Georgia State University Perimeter College***Impact of Globalization on Indian Women***

The impact of globalization on Indian women is wide-ranging. Although Indian cultural norms have marginalized women, the Constitution of India's directive principles gave men and women equal access to means of livelihood, equal pay for equal work, and health and strength of all workers; however, enforcement has been inadequate. Globalization's positive impacts included the right to choose a partner in marriage, higher wages than men, and more job opportunities. The negative impacts included exploitation in the workplace, no maternity benefits, hard work, domestic responsibilities not alleviated, and impatience with family and/or spouse resulting in marital issues. In conclusion, globalization alone will not improve the status of women, reforms such as opportunities for higher education, skilled jobs, and health care are needed.

Shunan You, Northeastern University***International Academic Mobility and Social Inequality***

The internationalization in higher education disrupts traditional ways of knowledge production specific to localized culture and producing hybrid and travelling spaces for knowledge output, leading to intensified mobility of academics and more vigorous international collaboration. Therefore, being geographically mobile, cosmopolitan, self-reliant and socially privileged is regarded as the ideal type of academic entrepreneur. Under this context, higher education as a site producing and reproducing inequality also creates intersectional inequality in terms of international academic mobility, and poses questions on who are more entitled to be engaged in international scholarship. This disjuncture nature of international academic flow brings about opportunities as well as new challenges for social inequality.

Peter Zelchenko, Shanghai Jiao Tong University***Designs for Modernized Consumption at China's Urban Perimeters: A Preliminary Prospectus***

The overwriting of traditional urban culture is pronounced at the perimeters of China's largest cities. This year's immigrants into Shanghai, if asked to stand around its 160-mile perimeter, would crowd shoulder to shoulder. While city centers are relatively static, fast-paced development takes place near these perimeters, overwriting older but still thriving urban forms. China's city dwellers are mastering modernization, performing great feats of consumption. Of interest are visible changes in everyday food culture, observable in the move away from traditional market and product designs and toward a packaging industrial regime. I outline a plan for qualitative observation and reporting of these transitions.

Lu Zhang, Temple University

Capital Mobility and Labor Politics in the Global Electronics Industry

A key debate over globalization concerns capital mobility, labor rights, and development prospects. This presentation examines how capital mobility interacts with labor politics and local development through a comparative case study of geographical relocation and expansion of four electronics multinationals from the Yangtze River Delta to West China. Developing an integrated framework that embeds worker agency and location-sensitive labor institutions in the global production networks (GPN), the study has found variegated labor regimes in the new sites of production, depending on firms' respective positions and labor process in the GPNs, as well as local labor institutions and worker responses. The evidence suggests a dynamic process of relocation, diversification, and specialization in the electronics industry and the importance of location-sensitive labor institutions and worker agency in making the geographies of capitalism, which challenge many assumptions of the race-to-the-bottom argument associated with capital mobility.