





**PANGAEA : GLOBAL CONNECTIONS**  
**VOLUME 1 FALL 2008**



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## Pangaea: Global Connections

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

**Dr. Michelle**

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**Fall 2008**

I am pleased to introduce the first volume of *Pangaea: Global Connections*, published by University Programs at St. Edward's University. This faculty-led academic journal accepts submissions by faculty recommendation only and presents outstanding student work on globalization and global processes.

Pangaea was the supercontinent that existed 250 million years ago, before this enormous landmass separated into distinct continents as we know them today. The concept of a Mesozoic world that was geographically interconnected seems an appropriate metaphor for our globally interrelated world in the 21st century.

The image of Pangaea, which in Greek means "entire earth," captures a common characterization of globalization as a process of shrinking space and time. It is also a reminder that global dynamics are hardly a recent phenomenon. Ecological, economic, political, social, and cultural exchange and interdependence are deeply rooted in history and even prehistory.

What may be distinct about our era is the acceleration of these webs of interdependence, and perhaps a broader acceptance of the notion of a global community as a structuring concept for society. The intense, but unequal, flow of goods, capital, technology, and people across the globe raises challenging questions about the formation of new identities, the reconfiguration of social and political institutions, the expansion and influence of economic and technological networks.

*Pangaea: Global Connections* presents a series of articles, reflexive essays, and photo-documents that demonstrate the commitment students at St. Edward's University have toward developing a critical understanding of these global processes in socio-historical, economic, and political perspective. In these thought-provoking pieces, students embrace the challenge of identifying and exploring global themes as they unfold in and are influenced by local contexts. Most importantly, as part of the academic curriculum at St. Edward's University, students engage in a pursuit of socially-minded solutions to emerging contemporary problems that result from these global dynamics. The contributions that follow are but a handful of examples that attest to the success of this educational mission in developing an institutional culture at St. Edward's University of well-informed and morally-responsible critical thinkers.

Our efforts at recognizing and appreciating differences around the world, after all, allow us to better understand our common humanity.

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### PANGAEA: GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

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## Developing Global Understanding in Undergraduate Students

### DEAN'S NOTE

Dr. Marianne  
Hopper  
Fall 2008

In the current environment, it is especially critical for St. Edward's University to expand its attention to how students grow in global understanding. Our age is characterized by interconnection of peoples, cultures, technologies, markets, problems, and politics on a world scale. This interconnectedness is creating a worldwide market for an exchange of higher education and a worldwide network of knowledge production and dissemination that increasingly requires engagement by institutions that want to remain at the forefront of the academic enterprise. Thus, it is imperative that an education at St. Edward's prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and orientations they will need to successfully understand and navigate the global society in which they are ever more deeply embedded. St. Edward's University proclaims in its mission statement that it educates its students in an environment that includes the broader community. More specifically, the mission dedicates us to helping students recognize their responsibility as members of the world community and apply their knowledge of the liberal arts and their specific disciplines, and their skills in moral reasoning and critical thinking, to the solution of social problems and the promotion of peace and social justice in that world community.

To fulfill this promise of global understanding in our traditional undergraduates we redesigned our general education requirements such that we can make the following commitment: **All traditional graduates of St. Edward's University will have significantly increased their understanding of global issues.** We do this by having all traditional undergraduates complete the following two courses in residence:

**CULF 3330 History and Evolution of Global Processes: Global Economics, Global Politics, and Cultural Issues in a Global Society.** This course focuses on the history of global economics, global politics, and cultural processes from the 16th to the 21st centuries. It explores the evolution of their interrelationships in an increasingly interdependent world. Students must demonstrate an understanding of these issues in order to successfully complete the course.

**CULF 3331 Contemporary World Issues.** This course focuses on significant contemporary world issues as they impact a particular non-U.S. area of the world. Successful completion of this course requires that students demonstrate knowledge of global processes including current global economics, global politics, and cultural issues as they influence and are changing at least one non-U.S. area in relation to the rest of the world.

Each of these courses requires experiential components. For instance, students have on- and/or off-campus curricular and co-curricular experiences that contribute to their understanding of contemporary world issues. Each course also requires a final project in which students demonstrate the global understanding they have achieved. Student contributions to this journal draw largely from their engagement with global topics explored through these and other courses at St. Edward's University.

# ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF INCREASING ETHANOL PRODUCTION IN BRAZIL

JOHNA MORRIS

Brazil is on the fast-track to becoming the world's largest producer of ethanol; the United States is currently in first place. On March 8, 2007, George W. Bush trekked to Brazil in order to begin plans with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva to greatly increase the production of sugar cane in the region. While President Bush and President Lula have been at odds in the past, with Bush's State of the Union Address stating a desired reduction in U.S. use of gasoline by 20 percent by the year 2017, they have put their differences aside.

On March 9, a formal agreement was reached in which Bush stipulated the U.S. would be a leading importer of Brazil's increased production of ethanol derived from sugar cane (Kenfield 1). Italy has also recently formalized a deal with Brazil to fund the production of four new bio-diesel plants in the region that will cost the equivalent of 480 million dollars ("Brazil and Italy in Biofuels Plan" 1). With these new relationships forged

and new relationships with countries like Japan and China underway, the increased desire for Ethanol on a global scale has become a solution to the global warming crisis that Brazil hopes it can provide.

Aside from the belief that Ethanol will help in the fight against global warming (it can be used in substitution for petroleum), Brazil hopes Ethanol will boost its economy and finally turn the tables on the age old principle that Latin American countries are dependent on the foreign market. There are a lot of positive feelings radiating from the new Ethanol boom in Brazil, but there are some who have concerns.

In recent months critics and environmentalists alike have started speaking up, on a global scale, about the negative effects increased mono-crop production could have on both the regional and global environments.

Since the Spanish and Portuguese arrived in Latin America in the late 15th century, exploitation of the region's rich environment has been a continuing process. The "Columbian Exchange," as it is often called, refers to the exchange of resources, diseases, crops, beliefs, techniques, and animals that occurred between the Iberian colonial empires and the New World. This time period is highly noted for its demographic effect on Latin America. The diseases brought by the Spanish and Portuguese killed many of the indigenous people—an estimated 90% of a total indigenous population of 54 million in the New World.

Those that were not killed were usually forced off their land and into slave labor (Hillman 211-212). What is not heavily detailed is the agricultural and export systems put into place by the new settlers that paved the way for the current situations that countries like Brazil are facing today.

In fact, the Forum of Resistance to Agribusinesses, a consortium of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) throughout South America, states that, "Brazil's effort to supply the Global North with ethanol is simply a repeat of the same model of economic growth via agro-export that has been practiced since Portuguese colonization" (Kenfield 1). Mono-crop

...in an attempt to increase mass use of this "greener" fuel, countries like the United States, Italy, and Japan are turning to Ethanol in spite of the fact that carbon emissions from the production of Ethanol almost outweigh the benefits of the product...

production and heavy dependence on foreign imports and investments have created a cycle that has not only displaced the native population but polluted the air, land, and water of Brazil.

What began with exports of commodities such as corn, potatoes, hot peppers, tomatoes, pineapple, and avocados has now become a mono-crop economy that continues to focus all resources and attention on the production of one crop, in this instance sugar cane, that the rest of the world desires. Logging, quests for gold, landless peasants, soybean production, and bananas have been past contributors to deforestation in Brazil.

Today, with the addition of sugar cane plantations, 20 percent of the Amazon rainforest has been lost ("Brazil's Ethanol Push Could Eat Away at Amazon" 1). This fact is of most concern to critics and environmentalists because

of the role the Amazon forest plays not only within the Brazilian region, but in the global community. "Some of the cane plantations are the size of European states," and continue to threaten one of the world's most vast eco-systems ("Ethanol Proves Sweet Alternative but at a Cost" 2). Nonetheless, many of the sugar cane plantation owners or producers argue that they are not directly at fault for the continued deforestation of the Amazon. While, "cultivation of sugar cane in the Amazon is minimal now ("Brazil's Ethanol Push Could Eat Away at Amazon" 1), the large amount of land needed to grow the product has been creating an economic environment that forces others, such as landless peasants and farmers who have had their land taken over by the sugar cane producers, to venture into the Amazon in hopes of supporting their families (Hillman 24). And the land needed to produce sugar cane continues to increase.

In 2005, sugar cane plantations occupied 15.2 million acres of Brazilian land. In 2006 the number jumped to 16.26 million acres ("Brazilian Farmers Increase Sugarcane Production" 1). In order to fulfill Bush's wishes of cutting American oil consumption 20 percent by 2017, estimates are that an additional 148 million acres of forest will need to be cleared (Kenfield 1).

There are three reasons the current and future continued deforestation of the Amazon rainforest to help in the increased



production of Ethanol is of concern. First of all, the Amazon naturally moderates the earth's temperature ("Ethanol is not a Fix" 2). Basically, the more trees that are cleared to make way for future sugar cane plantations the less effective the rainforest will be at neutralizing the amount of carbon dioxide in the air. Carbon dioxide is a direct contributor to global warming, and this is a primary reason for countries to want to cut their use of petroleum and gasoline.

Second, the Amazon may, "account for only 6 percent of the earth's landmass, but at least 50 percent of the world's species are found there" (Hillman 24). We are slowly destroying one of the earth's natural treasures, one that has continually aided the global population.

Finally, the carbon emissions that are created during the deforestation process are devastating. Burning of the forest's shrubbery is the most popular method used to clear land for plantations and it is a huge source of air pollution. This method of clearing land has actually placed Brazil as the fourth largest producer of carbon emissions worldwide ("Ethanol Proves Sweet Alternative but at a Cost" 2).

The mounting evidence has led critics to begin calling the globe's new obsession with Ethanol a double-edged sword. The growing fear about global warming and the continued concern about the oil reserves in the Middle East have driven many countries toward exploring new sources, so-called cleaner sources. Ethanol has continued to present itself as a better product all around. Not only is Ethanol a renewable energy source, but it also emits fewer carbon emissions than gasoline when used as a fuel in automobiles (Ibid 1). However, in an attempt to increase mass use of this "greener" fuel, countries like the United States, Italy, and Japan are turning to Ethanol in spite of the fact that carbon emissions from the production of Ethanol almost outweigh the benefits of the product.

The environmental effects of the Ethanol production in Brazil are being slowly circulated throughout the media, but it does not seem to be halting any political plans. After all, this is not the first time that Brazil has put the environment second to the possible economic gains of mono-crop production. The blame, however, should not be entirely placed on the Brazilian government.

Stemming back to the discussion of the early Spanish and Portuguese settlers, the centuries that followed cemented the mono-crop economy that Brazil is almost forced to par-

The global community is facing a crisis and right now the best answer seems to lie in the hands of Brazil.

ticipate in today in order to support itself. In the 19th and 20th centuries, the United States began what would become a constant presence in the government actions and economies of many Latin American countries, Brazil included. The real issue, as stated in the book *Understanding Contemporary Latin America*, concerns who controls the region's natural resources (Hillman 209). As history tells the story, the aforementioned "who" has often been the United States.

Overall, the message seems to be clear. The global community is facing a crisis and right now the best answer seems to lie in the hands of Brazil. The use of Ethanol may appear controversial to environmentalists, but to some governments it is the only answer. Hopefully, many of the countries that deal with Brazil to get Ethanol will tap into the country's wisdom on the subject. After all, Ethanol has been produced and used as an alternate source of fuel in Brazil since the 1920's. Throughout cities like Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, flex-fuel cars have been common for years. All of the gas stations in the heavy metropolis, Sao Paulo, offer "gas" or "alcohol at the pump" ("Ethanol Proves Sweet Alternative but at a Cost" 1-2).

Brazilians warn, though, that the transition from gasoline to Ethanol cars was not an immediate one. There are concerns that leaders, like President Bush, assume Ethanol will be an immediate solution. "The problem is that many Americans, and Europeans for that matter, seem to think it is just a matter of flicking a switch: one moment fossil fuel, the next, sugar cane-plus-corn. Lifestyle unaltered" ("Ethanol is not a Fix" 2). Due to the environmental effects of producing Ethanol, changes need to be made across the board. Energy must be conserved in general, not just by switching our automobile's source for fuel. In order to do this, the global community must face the facts about global warming and stop depending on a quick fix because that is the reason we are in the situation we are in today.

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# A RESPONSE TO THE OCTOBER 19, 2007 BILL MOYERS'S SEGMENT BALANCE OF TRADE

KAYLEIGH BRADLEY

The place for free trade agreements in the United States' economic policy is much debated and is critical to the developing world and on domestic fronts as well. Some proponents argue that open trading with foreign parties enables unprecedented profit increases that stimulate the US economy; however, opponents fear the effects free trade will have on foreign partners and the US labor force. By examining free trade through a historical lens, one is reminded of the catastrophic impacts of colonialism in the past and forced to question the legitimacy of profit-based conquest. The issues associated with free trade are of great importance to me, as a student of the social sciences, in that the weighing of the costs of "profit loss" against the costs of "human culture loss" should be more deliberate and responsible in our interconnected global community of today.

The first elements of the free trade system to be questioned in the Moyers segment bear a striking resemblance to British colonialism throughout Africa and the Middle East; by looking at these similarities, some of the more serious consequences of free trade surface. In the program, President Bush is quoted as saying that congress should recognize the opportunity in free trade to "strengthen our economy and advance democracy and prosperity" (Moyers 1). The ideology that views the US as responsible or capable of doling out success (in the form of American democracy) to "worthy" nations is highly egotistical; identical opin-

ions are conveyed in a quote from British colonizer, Cecil Rhodes, "[we] must find new lands from which we can easily obtain raw materials and at the same time exploit the cheap slave labor that is available from the natives" (Payne and Nassar 71). The US, just like imperial Britain, is motivated by nationalism and profit and, for the most part, the nation is uninterested in building up foreign economies or facilitating democratic traditions without the promise of economic reward. Instead, the US is using "blank slate" countries to replicate its own ideologies to ensure profit and power. What the US has seemingly failed to consider seriously are the concerns and conditions of foreign partners. According to the program, Latin American nations are concerned that the US and large corporations will get "too much power over [their national] laws, environment and economy" (Moyers 1). Harkening back to the colonization of Africa, one can see the very real threat of cultural infringements. Is this concern unfounded among developing Latin American countries? According to J. Scott Tynes, "[changes as a result of free trade agreements are] bringing about a gradual erosion of the sovereignty of many nations;" and have re-introduced the idea of "cultural imperialism" as corporations are making decisions concerning nations, without the nation's consent, knowledge or best interests in mind (Harf and Lombardi, 253).

In addition to considering the repercussions of repeating history, Bill Moyers's segment encourages viewers

**Harkening back to the colonization of Africa, one can see the very real threat of cultural infringements.**

to question the efficiency and equity in the domestic economy. As noted in the program, the undeniable inequity in income distribution has intensified in recent years, and many are pointing at job exports as a result of free trade. Commentator, James Hoffa explains that free trade agreements are enacted in the best interest of the top one percent of the population, and serve to widen the gap between "rich and poor" (Moyers 1). Hoffa's insinuation that the upper class receives more "breaks" than their lower class counterparts is mirrored in Moyers's investigation of corporate involvement in Panama. Information from converging sources indicates that Panamanian free trade would eliminate tariffs in addition to allowing corporations to avoid paying their taxes. The reality that "the squeaky wheel often gets the grease," is beautifully depicted in the government's relationships with large economic contributors. However, the middle class labor force is the demographic most affected by outsourcing and free trade agreements. Moyers's program indicates declines in average income, loss of jobs and the increasing need for highly skilled workers as obstacles facing the middle class today in the US. Opponents of free trade have acknowledged President Bush's appeals to the labor force and creation of federal funding for "worker displacement" as signs that free trade has taken jobs from US workers (Moyers 1). Sadly, the economic outsourcing that has left workers unemployed is also working retroactively on a social front; by creating competition with foreign nations, unstable

and agitated laborers in the US may fuel existing prejudicial judgments, weakening international relations and respect.

The effects of free trade are visible in more than just statistics and profit reports and they will be felt for years to come in affected nations. We must consider that loss of profit and job cuts can be remedied with funding and economic shifts, however, a country may never recover or develop independently after being "used" by a developed country's corporate loopholes.

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# GUATEMALAN COFFEE CRISIS

KATHRYN WALSH

Guatemala is the largest nation in Central America. The nation is currently facing issues concerning drug trafficking, disputes with Belize over Guatemalan squatters, and environmental issues such as deforestation, soil erosion, and water pollution. Another huge issue, not as readily mentioned, is the current coffee crisis in Guatemala. Coffee is one of the top exports of the country, and formerly the number one source of national income. With the drop in coffee prices, starting in 2001, the country has begun to face a range of social, economic, environmental, and international issues.

Along with an analysis of the current status of the coffee crisis, it is important to understand the history and origin of coffee in Guatemala, what is currently being done to aid the crisis, and how the global community can contribute to a solution.

Coffee, first domesticated in Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula, was brought to the New World as a colonial cash crop. The crop arrived to Guatemala via the Caribbean around 1700. Local cultivation began shortly after, and commercial export of coffee from Guatemala began in the mid-1800s. The coffee industry in Guatemala has a history of land-wars as growers expanded into full-scale production. In many cases, larger plantations took over smaller ones; many were bought out—some by force. German immigration after the government passed a law granting exemptions for taxes and import duties on ma-

chinery and tools in 1877 had a positive effect on the coffee industry. The Germans financed the construction of railroads and seaports for transporting coffee, and also offered paid labor to Mayans. Since then Guatemalan coffee has earned an excellent reputation and is highly respected (Wilson).

In 2001, the price of coffee fell from over \$1 a pound to less than \$0.50 (Lotter 1). This happened, in part, due to increased supply on the world market of coffee from Vietnam and Brazil. Following petroleum, coffee is the second most valuable globally traded commodity. It supports a very competitive business trade, with over twenty million producers worldwide. However, coffee produced in Guatemala is not just your average cup of joe. It is considered premium grade coffee. Nonetheless, most of the coffee is currently being sold on the standard world coffee market; known as the “C market.” The “C market’s” average quality of coffee is dramatically lower than Guatemalan highland coffee.

What distinguishes coffee produced in the Guatemalan highlands from coffee produced worldwide is the two dozen major steps of production. The process—from varietals selection, soil fertility, pest and disease management, harvesting and initial fermentation, to the final drying, storage, and transport—has to be flawless for the coffee to achieve gourmet status and earn the top prices (Lotter 1). Other methods of growing such as

shade-grown coffee and coffee grown in the soil of volcano ash distinguish themselves in level of quality.

It is Guatemalan coffee-growing custom to grow coffee under large shade trees. If grown under the proper level of shade, due to the longer amount of time required for development, the coffee develops a richer and more complex taste. Market price on the “C market” for Guatemalan coffee is lower than the cost of production.

world, with consumption of one-fifth of all of the world’s coffee. However, when we enjoy our daily cup, or two, of coffee, the debt and suffering associated with that cup of coffee rarely crosses our minds. A simple Fair Trade agreement would improve the conditions of the coffee industry.

Fair Trade is classified by the following seven key principles of trading relationships between developing countries to developed countries: Creating opportunities for economically disadvantaged producers, transparent management and ac-

The United States is the largest consumer of coffee in the world, with consumption of one-fifth of all of the world’s coffee. However, when we enjoy our daily cup, or two, of coffee, the debt and suffering associated with that cup of coffee rarely crosses our minds. A simple Fair Trade agreement would improve the conditions of the coffee industry.

Society and the environment are intricately interrelated. Deforestation is currently one of the most pressing environmental issues in Latin America. Clearing rainforest land to compensate for loss of fertile soil is the most common cause of deforestation. The coffee crisis has forced many coffee farms to close down. Often the crops have been ripped out in preparation for planting new crops.

The destruction of shade trees takes deforestation in Guatemala to a new level. In addition to deforestation, most of the replacement crops being planted are not as environmentally friendly. “Most are monocultures, many need much higher levels of pesticides and fertilizers and many are annual crops that leave the soil exposed to erosion” (Lotter 2). Closing down so many coffee farms has also caused obvious, but still less visible, social issues with indigenous Guatemalans who “suffer their setbacks quietly” (Lotter 2). Over 600,000 people have become economic refugees, and 1.2 million are in need of direct food aid (Lotter 1). Mass numbers of people have moved from the countryside to the streets of tourist towns to try to sell homemade weavings and crafts. Even plantation owners, who are perceived as relatively wealthy, are struggling to make ends meet.

The United States is the largest consumer of coffee in the

countability, capacity building, payment of a fair price, gender equality, healthy working conditions, and environmental protection (“Fair Trade”). “Fair Trade for coffee farmers means community development, health, education, and environmental stewardship” (“Fair Trade Coffee”).

Many Fair Trade arrangements in place require organic certification or Rainforest Alliance certification, which is sometimes difficult to obtain when dealing with already developed crops. The Rainforest Alliance certification program allows certain types of pesticides and low to moderate levels of synthetic fertilizers, which distinguishes itself from organic certification. However, additional criteria must be met, such as recycling waste water, worker wage and housing requirements, and standards for protection of riparian and natural zones (Lotter 3). Coffee that is Rainforest Alliance certified often receives about twice the “C market” price.

A prime example of these principles at work is of a coffee grower in El Faro who landed a deal with Starbucks, not only because of the rich soil from volcanic ash, which makes his coffee special, but also because of his demonstration of social responsibility. Estuardo Porras’ coffee plantation has an on-site medical clinic, schoolhouse, and human resources office (Kramer). Most Guatemalan coffee farms and plantations are

referred to as “sweatshops in the fields”, and facilities like these are unheard of (“Fair Trade Coffee”). The Porras plantation offers a free company-funded grammar school, free health care after employment of three months, benefits such as 15 paid vacation days a year, minimum wage, and the ability to take up complaints with Human Resources. “He [Porras] created a plantation that blended traditional farming methods with sustainable agriculture techniques and a progressive culture. His main priority was to produce high-quality coffee beans while helping the struggling community and preserving the land” (Kramer). This act, known as corporate social entrepreneurship, has become increasingly recognized by companies like Starbucks. Porras now sells every El Faro bean to Starbucks at \$1.45 a pound.

Another relevant example of these Fair Trade agreements at work is the Oriflama Farm, owned by Walter Adams, a descendant of a German coffee pioneer. Adams’ farm is certified by the Rainforest Alliance. Oriflama has developed a water-efficient wet processing system. The largest detrimental environmental impact from coffee producers is water pollution from the wet processing system. “The waste water is acidic and high in natural effluents from the fermentation of the mucilage that envelops the coffee berry” (Lotter 3). Oriflama’s innovation reduced the amount of water used by 95%.

The Oriflama Farm has also created a low-cost pest trap for the coffee berry borer. The coffee berry borer is coffee’s worst insect pest, and by developing traps made from plastic soda bottles and alcohol, they are able to eliminate the use of pesticides.

Lastly, Adams has demonstrated two very important principles of Fair Trade: creating opportunities for disadvantaged producers and gender equality. He holds training workshops for any of his workers who would like to become supervisors. He especially encourages women to come, as he believes they make better supervisors by not holding to old Latin American tradition of exploitation and poor treatment of workers (Lotter 4).

The issues at hand are easily identifiable. With the increase in production from Vietnam and Brazil, Guatemalan coffee farmers have found it difficult make profit on their premium-grade coffee. Guatemalan coffee takes more time and resources to produce than an average coffee bean, but it must struggle, nonetheless, to meet the competitive prices of the average coffee bean. Fair Trade agreements between individual farmers and corporations have shown a positive turn for the coffee crisis. The El Faro and Oriflama farms demonstrate that social and environmental responsibility has caught the eye of

Fair Trade purchasers. This, in particular, was what helped El Faro and Oriflama through the coffee crisis while other farms crashed.

Many Fair Trade purchasers are beginning to offer assistance in transitioning to organic farming as well, making the crops more likely to be bought at Fair Trade prices (“Fair Trade Coffee”). “Worldwide it is widely said that the average coffee farmer receives about 1% of the price of a cup of coffee bought in a café. By simply increasing the percentage that goes to the farmer to 2%, a few pennies are added to the cost of a cup of coffee, but a doubling of the farmers income can be achieved, making coffee production profitable” (Lotter 2). If this statement is true, then as U.S. citizens, given that we are the largest consumers of coffee in the world, we can help turn the coffee crisis in Guatemala around as well.

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## Re: Globalization

“There is evidence that some national economies have increased their productivity as a result of free trade, and there are obvious benefits that accrue to societies through specialization, competition, and the spread of technology. However, it is less clear whether profits resulting from free trade have been distributed equally and fairly within and among nations. Most studies demonstrate that the gap between rich and poor countries continues to widen at a rapid rate. The availability of cheap labor, resources, and favorable production conditions in the global South has enhanced corporate mobility and profitability, but also had sometimes devastating consequences on the nations at the other end of such business. What’s more, transnational production networks augment the power of global capitalism by making it easier for transnational corporations to bypass nationally based trade unions and other worker’s organizations, making TNCs increasingly important players that influence the economic, political, and social welfare of many nations. Further, reforms to the internal economic structure of debtor countries in the developing world often spell out a new form of colonialism rather than promote their economies to support their debt.” **Alexandra Clear**

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# REFLECTIVE ESSAY: ROBERT P. SCHMUHL'S VISIT TO CAMPUS

CHRIS HANTHORN

In October 2007, St. Edward's University hosted Robert P. Schmuhl, an American Studies Professor from the University of Notre Dame, who lectured on the current role and perception of the United States in the world. Professor Schmuhl's lecture was titled, "Perilous Preeminence: America in the World Today," a thought-provoking topic, which drew around 50 spectators. Some of the statistics presented were shocking, others were captivating, all of which made for a thoroughly engaging lecture.

A large portion of Professor Schmuhl's lecture was dedicated to presenting an array of dissimilar facts dealing with the prominent aspects, as well as the unappealing areas of American society and international influence. According to Schmuhl, seven of the top ten companies in the world are owned by American investors. He went on to explain that America has a larger GDP than the next four countries on the list. Another one of his pro-American facts dealt with the reputable status of American universities and educational resources. Near the end of the first portion of the lecture, Professor Schmuhl explained that 77% of all Nobel Prize winners reside in the United States; a reassuring fact for any proud American concerned with the U.S.'s constructive contributions to the rest of the world.

At the end of his lecture, Professor Schmuhl focused on the more negative areas of the American way of life and how we, as Americans, are perceived outside our own country. What he said was somewhat shocking,

but upon further thought, not all that surprising. According to Schmuhl and other outside sources, the war in Iraq has had a devastatingly negative effect on our world-wide reputation. He presented a one-page graph/table which illustrated numerous countries' views of the United States between 1999 and 2007. It seems as though the United States had a decent reputation preceding the war in Iraq, but after 2003, the favorable views, for the most part, vanished. After the war began, Schmuhl explained, the French and other countries began to refer to the U.S. as a "hyper power," no longer regarded as a "world power." Professor Schmuhl said that this new title reflects the cautious regard that many countries have because of our continuous and sometimes sporadic international influence.

The conclusion of Professor Schmuhl's lecture was dedicated to various ideas that we, as Americans, can adopt to improve our international reputation. He explained that Americans must remain vigilant of potential enemies while simultaneously trying to understand other countries' animosity towards us. He stressed the importance of being aware of global news, underscoring that we must take more individual responsibility to find out what is going on outside our nation's borders. If we know more about what is going on elsewhere in the world, he explained, we could change our current perceptions of other countries and eventually gain a more thorough understanding of others' adverse views of the United States and its citizens.

Previous to Schmuhl's lecture, much of our 3331 course had focused on evaluating the differences between the United States and Europe, post-war interaction, and the eventual creation of the European Union. We had not gotten to contemporary Europe, so it was somewhat difficult to understand the European attitudes toward the United States. European distaste for the United States is somewhat understandable after reading Jeremy Rifkin's The European Dream. Rifkin's analysis of both powers in their historical context supports his belief that the EU will eventually play a more influential role in the world, compared to that of the United States. Rifkin would probably be more sympathetic towards the ideas Schmuhl presented at the end of his lecture. In other words, Rifkin would agree that if we, as Americans, can become more informed about international news, we could develop our ideas about others, and in so doing, hopefully restore our reputation as a more considerate and conscientious "hyper-power."

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# CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION

EMILY MOREHEAD

It is common these days to hear about “sweatshop” conditions in the factories of our favorite brands. Exposés appear on the news and on internet blogs, and consumers vocally boycott producers of goods that have been identified as employing undesirable labor practices. The ease of moving production abroad allows these companies to manufacture their products cheaper in places where labor standards are not as strict as in industrialized nations. The question of how to standardize and regulate corporate social responsibility is one that receives more and more attention each day. However, closer examination of the issue reveals it to be somewhat more complex than a simple ethical or moral dilemma with the simple solution of cracking down. The expansion of the

The expansion of the global economy and income inequalities around the world will continue to result in companies moving production to developing nations, but their adherence to the core labor standards can and should be monitored and preserved by government, civilian, and company efforts.

global economy and income inequalities around the world will continue to result in companies moving production to developing nations, but their adherence to the core labor standards can and should be monitored and preserved by government, civilian, and company efforts.

The globalization of the economy is underway and continues to unfold. In her book, *Travels of a T-shirt in the Global Economy*, economist Pietra Rivoli reveals how materials from one nation can be assembled in another and then exported back for less money than it would have cost to cut out all the travel. Materials produced in a nation such as the United States can be more cheaply fashioned into goods in developing nations because wages and labor standards are lower there, and trade agreements allow for cheap, easy movement of products back and forth (Rivoli 212). This, in combination with interconnected international economies and the development of technologies that allow for instantaneous communication and fast transportation, has resulted in businesses either moving abroad or becoming multinational enterprises, which form the basis of globalization.

Globalization becomes problematic in the world of corporations when it leads to unethical labor practices in developing nations, which includes the infamous sweatshops. Developing nations are aided by international monetary organizations such as the World Bank to help with economic development. These organizations advise developing nations to enact policies such as currency devaluation and reduced wages as a method of spurring economic activity, which may include direct foreign investment. While these policies do attract foreign business, they do nothing to promote economic development for the middle and lower classes that are not paid enough to have a chance at upward mobility (Wellstone).

Regardless of the setting, it is not unusual for companies to either move or open operations abroad in order to take advantage of cheaper production costs, and there are no policies that prevent them from doing so. According to Douglas Klein, who conducted a recent survey on corporate social responsibility, until recently expectations for companies’ social obligations were limited to obeying legal and tax codes (Ketter 14). This is compounded by the fact that many companies are more concerned about immediate profit rather than the long-term social impact their operations have (Jenkins 529). Plenty of organizations like the United Nations and European Union, as well as conferences such as the G8 Summit and Third Summit of the Americas have adopted declarations pertaining to corporate social responsibility, but these measures lack any

For the “awakening consumer,” ethics and values are important when selecting a brand, and their buying power can influence how companies conduct themselves.

methods of enforcement (Murray 37). Also, according to Rhys Jenkin’s article on corporate social responsibility in the context of globalization, organizations like the UN’s Global Compact Office are sometimes more prone to encouraging foreign direct investment rather than looking to the preservation of human rights in developing nations (530-531). Furthermore, even when companies take the initiative with things such as a corporate code of conduct, the poor are the ones who suffer.

For example, Rhys Jenkins points to wine industry in South Africa where standards and regulations on production outlined in codes of conduct help wealthy whites dominate the industry because small-scale farmers no longer meet requirements (537).

The problem with simply cracking down on companies that take their production to developing countries is illustrated by Jill Murray in her essay on regulating multinational enterprises. Here she describes conditions that are often used to shock consumers about foreign factories: “In a Chinese factory producing Disney toys, a seventeen year old girl earns just over £1 a day. She works on average eleven hours a day, seven days a week. When she finishes her day’s work she sleeps in a ten by twelve-foot room with eleven colleagues. There is no private toilet... A Chinese toy worker would have to work three months to earn as much as we spend on toys for one child at Christmas” (33). Murray reminds the reader to ask questions before making judgments. She points out that there is no mention of what the local cost of living is, and therefore no means of assessing the wage for fairness. In addition, one must consider what the worker’s situation was before this job, how it compares to other opportunities, or the lack thereof (33). For these reasons, it is hard for organizations and governments to establish uniform labor standards. The International Labor Organization, therefore, has developed the core labor standards in the areas of forced and child labor, discrimination, and freedom of association, which are somewhat more universal (37). These standards are the easiest to regulate and they address the worst abuses.



Globalization is the problem as well as the solution when it comes to corporate social responsibility.

Re: Globalization

The solution to the problem of corporate social responsibility in the age of Globalization is three-pronged and already developing in many places. According to journalist Hugh Hough, one of the phenomena resulting from globalization is the “awakening consumer,” who now makes up 23% of the adult population. Because of the development of technology and communication, the practices and impacts of production are more publicized. This creates a consumer who is more informed and more likely to take action. For the “awakening consumer,” ethics and values are important when selecting a brand, and their buying power can influence how companies conduct themselves. The effect this has on companies should not be underestimated; it is responsible for the development of corporate codes of conduct.

In addition to these policies Hough stresses two words that companies should come to value: clarity and candor. According to Hough, businesses need to be upfront about their labor practices and environmental impact, and be honest because consumers will find out regardless. Hough predicts that companies that better meet the needs and expectations of “awakening consumers” will see increased business and profit. Finally, governments should decide what standards they desire and build them into their trade agreements with developing nations. This would mean that nations would have to meet the highest standard set forth by a given trade partner, and would in the process benefit not only the rest of their trade partners, but also their own workers. The motivation would be obvious: to continue doing business.

Globalization is the problem as well as the solution when it comes to corporate social responsibility. By creating a global economy that allows businesses to buy, produce, and sell across the world, globalization allows corporations to exploit the lower living and labor standards in developing nations in order to save money. The globalization of technology and communication, however, has resulted in increased visibility of corporate labor practices, creating a more aware and more discerning consumer. With the aid of governmental policies that carry repercussions, consumers can help to influence corporate social responsibility with their buying power, resulting in more self-policing by businesses.

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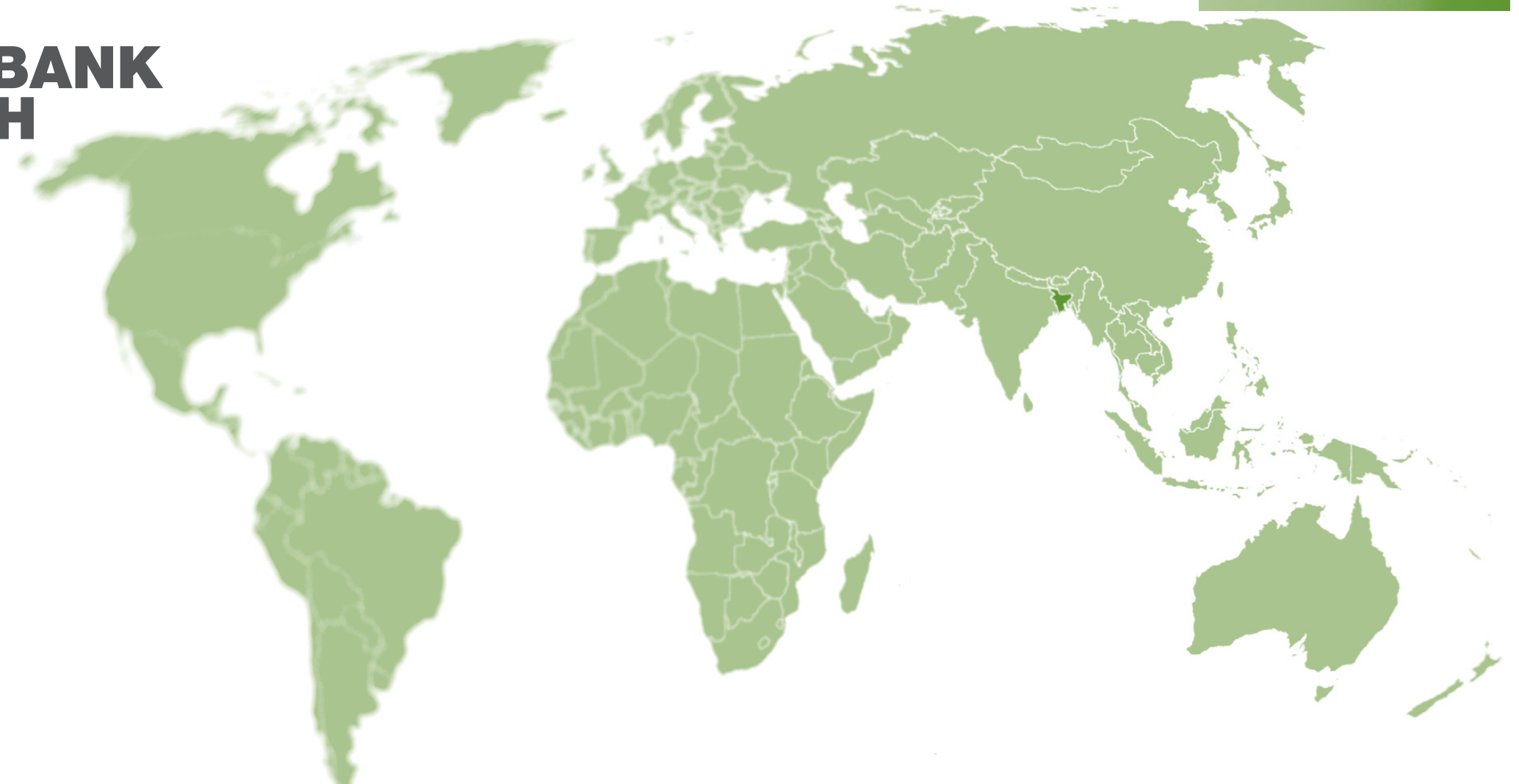
“Mass culture from the U.S has been an important supplier of products to the rest of the world. At the same time, however, local cultural production has become extremely diverse giving way to a wide variety of entertainment and expressions. Artists and entertainers have crossed gender, racial, generational, and international boundaries with unbelievable ease and have been able to break loose of local cultural confines. This is especially visible in the U.S., where foreign cultures have refashioned tastes and challenged the idea that there is a shared ‘American’ culture at all.”

Andres Bu-Soto

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Recommending Faculty: Dr. Bob Strong

# THE GRAMEEN BANK OF BANGLADESH

WHITNEY ANDERSON



The debate about how and if extreme poverty can be eradicated has been an important part of globalization in this new millennium. There are thousands of institutions that focus on this issue and they all seem to have a different solution to the problem. The most common practice of international financial development institutions, such as World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, is to give large sums of money to the governments of poor countries. This idea works off the theory that through proper reform and distribution of the money, it will eventually benefit the impoverished citizens. Unfortunately this is not always the case and the poor stay poor. As globalization increases and the world begins to understand the causes of poverty and the flaws of the current systems for helping the poor, new concepts are being developed and put into practice to improve the economic situation of the extreme poor.

This case study centers on the new idea of micro-credit and the micro-lending institution that started it all, Grameen Bank of Bangladesh. I seek to understand how Grameen Bank has provided the world with a successful model of grassroots

efforts aimed towards the eradication of extreme poverty. I look at political and international dimensions of the bank, as well as the new developments that have allowed Grameen to expand its sphere of influence both domestically and internationally. This discussion uses several terms that may not be familiar to the reader, but are essential for understanding the topic.

These terms often have different meanings according to different authors, but this case study will use them as they are applied to Grameen Bank and Bangladesh. Because Grameen focuses its efforts on the extreme poor, one needs to understand who is included within this classification. Extreme poverty refers to those individuals and families who do not have enough of the basics required for survival. They do not have enough food to eat and therefore, are always hungry. They lack clean, sanitary water to drink which leads to numerous health problems. They do not have access to health care or education. They do not have adequate basic shelters or clothing. And finally these individuals and families are so impoverished that they have no means (without external

help) of increasing their income to save and eventually raise themselves out of poverty (Sachs 20). This definition applies to the bottom 20% of Bangladesh's population, even though at least half of the population lives in poverty (Yunus 41). An important factor of this type of poverty is vulnerability. Vulnerability, as it is used in terms of extreme poverty, refers to how susceptible and easily impacted or influenced a community, society or region is to external forces such as the climate and illness. A society is considered vulnerable if the economy and way of life is easily and harshly affected by natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods. But it can also be affected by illnesses, especially in relation to how quickly illness is spread, how many are affected, and the availability of medicine and health care. Micro-credit and micro-lending refers to the practice of providing small loans of \$50 to \$100 to the poor, which are to be used to establish or increase productivity of a small business run by the borrower.

An understanding of these terms is essential in order to clearly comprehend the principles of micro-credit and Grameen. But it is also necessary to understand what factors contribute to

extreme poverty. Economist and author of *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities For Our Time*, Jeffery Sachs describes eight factors that he believes prohibit a country from achieving economic growth. There are four important factors that are closely related to micro-credit. They are: "the poverty trap," the fiscal trap, cultural barriers, and the lack of innovation. The poverty trap refers to those who are so absolutely poor that they need all of their income, which in many cases is still not enough, just to survive. This leaves nothing left over for them to save and build on for the future. If they have no savings, they cannot prepare for or recover from natural disasters, sickness, or other unplanned events. This also leaves them with nothing with which to send their children to school; and education is one of the best means by which to improve one's economic situation.

The fiscal trap refers to the government's responsibility to take care of its citizens by providing basic public goods and services including primary health care, education, roads, ports, electricity, and safe drinking water. But often times a government does not have the means to support these needs. There are



three main reasons a government has trouble providing for its people. The first is because the people themselves are too poor to pay the government taxes that fund these services. The second is because governments may be too corrupt or dysfunctional to properly collect and disperse the taxes. The third reason that can cause a government's fiscal trap is insurmountable debt—debt so large that the majority of taxes collected must be put towards paying it off rather than invested in goods and services that benefit the people.

Cultural barriers can also hinder a country's economic growth because certain cultural or religious norms may exclude large groups of the population. The exclusion of women, ethnic, or religious groups means that these groups, which can account for as much as half of the country's population, are not allowed to acquire new skills that will contribute to economic growth. Nor are they able to contribute with the skills they already possess. When a country is relying on a small portion of its population for prosperity, the results are going to be slower.

The final factor of poverty that I address in this case study in relation to the Grameen Bank is a lack of innovation. In an impoverished country, even if there are inventors working on new developments that can address local economic needs, the market is too small for the product to be successful. The governments and inventors already do not have the financial backing to support such endeavors so they never get started; which then leaves the country lagging behind wealthy countries when it comes to scientific and technological breakthroughs (Sachs 56-62).

These four factors of poverty are addressed and in most cases alleviated through the fundamental ideas and principles of micro-credit as applied to Grameen. The concept and practical application of micro-credit as a tool to eradicate extreme poverty began in Bangladesh, with Muhammad Yunus's Grameen Bank, in the late 1970s. Yunus realized that the poor are often left without the option of obtaining credit because it is assumed they will not be able to pay it back. He argues that if they are given small, manageable loans, payments can be made on a realistic, flexible payment plan. The loans are used to develop and apply skills, which the borrower already possesses, to create a business. This business in turn will generate revenue and allow the borrower to pay back his or her

loan. Over time the access to credit will allow the borrower to continue to advance his or her business, thereby increasing profits and income. As income increases, the basic means for survival are more easily met and leftover profits can be used to pay for health care and education or go into savings. By being able to effectively plan for their future, they have broken through the poverty trap.

In the late 1970's when Mr. Yunus was developing his theory of micro-credit, the idea of loaning to the extreme poor, and especially to women, was almost completely unheard of in Bangladesh or in the modern world of banking

As more of the poor access credit and increase their incomes, there will be more money paid in taxes which ideally will provide more money for basic government services. A government with more money has a better chance of breaking out of the fiscal trap and can begin providing the basic public necessities that improve the standard of living for the country on a national scale. The problems of corruption and dysfunction within a government are then an issue that stands in the way of thoroughly break-

ing the fiscal trap, but this is not an issue that a bank alone has the resources or expertise to address. The important point to remember is that Grameen gives its borrowers a chance to increase their income, which in turn gives the government the opportunity (through taxes) to increase funding for public goods.

Bangladesh is a culturally diverse country with Hindu, Muslim, and Buddhist populations living side by side. Islam, with 83% of the population, is the major religion. Muhammad Yunus points out that Bangladesh as a whole is a paternalistic society; this means that women by and large have few rights either inside or outside the home. Grameen is extremely focused on breaking through this cultural barrier, which is why their initial focus was to have at least 50% of the borrowers be women. The logic behind this idea stems from the realization that "when credit is given to women it brings about change faster than when it is given to men...[because] poor women are willing to work harder to lift themselves and their families out of poverty;" and poverty alleviation is the fundamental goal and purpose of Grameen Bank (Yunus 72).

An important element needed to break through the cultural barrier is empowerment, especially amongst women. Micro-credit is tied to empowerment because it gives the borrowers power to make choices that have an impact on their situation, rather than leaving it up to cultural, environmental, and

economic effects that are largely out of their control. If extreme poverty is ever going to be eliminated, the people need to know that they can do something. Once they understand that they have a means of controlling their destiny, they will be more confident to take the steps necessary to improve their standard of living.

Micro-credit easily fits with Naila Kabeer's idea of empowerment and the relations of agency, resources, and achievements. Kabeer states that "agency encompasses both observable actions in exercise of choice-decision-making; protest, bargaining, and negotiation – as well as the meaning, motivation, and purpose individuals bring to their action." In the micro-credit model, people exercise agency because they make a choice to join the bank, take out a loan, and begin a business. Resources, according to Kabeer "are the medium of power [that] are distributed through the various institutions and relationships in a society." Grameen and other micro-credit programs provide the resources with which people improve their standard of living and thereby empower themselves. Achievements are the results, either positive or negative, that come from agency plus resources, or the economic prosperity that accompanies the borrower's proper use of credit. Grameen has been a wonderful model to study because of its undeniable positive impact on devastating poverty and its ability to continually inspire improvement.

Grameen encourages innovation, just not on the large scientific and technological scale that Sachs describes in his work. Grameen encourages borrowers to apply the skills they already possess to develop a profitable business. The typical borrower of Grameen is uneducated and illiterate; therefore, his or her skills are limited. But in a small economy with a severely uneducated population, even the most basic of skills such as farming, cloth weaving, and stool making, provide for profitable business ventures. Grameen clearly operates within a design that allows it to address and eliminate the influence of the devastating factors that can cause poverty.

A unique element of micro-credit, allowing the Grameen Bank to successfully address these factors of poverty, is the amount of interest charged on the loans. The interest rate for a Grameen loan is relatively low and conveniently spread out over a flexible time period so that the borrower's profit is not heavily affected. This means that the amount of the payments does not hurt the amount of profit. If borrowers received a more traditional loan that had high interest rates or that required repayment either in full or in just a few installments, bank payments would cut into most of their profit. This would then defeat the purpose of the loan in the first place. The main purpose of Grameen is

to provide loans within a beneficial framework that will allow the poor borrowers with a means to invest in a stable form of income. Dr. Yunus explains, "Grameen provides three types of loans: income-generating loans (with an interest rate of 20 percent), housing loans (with an interest rate of eight percent), and higher education loans for the children of Grameen families (with an interest rate of five percent). All interests are simple interest, calculated on a declining balance method" (Yunus 236).

Grameen has paved the way for **more** micro-credit institutions, in **more** places, to help **more** people.

The second and third types of loans were developed over the years, demonstrating the expansion of Grameen into new terrain. The method of repayment is this: loans last one year and installments are paid back weekly. Repayment starts a week after the loan, with an interest rate of 20 percent. This allows for weekly installments to equal 2 percent of the loan amount for fifty weeks (Yunus 68-69).

Grameen's ability to address such deep-seated causes of poverty through its innovative credit plan is not the only reason it has become a model institution for poverty alleviation. The way Grameen has developed, worked with, through, and around the political arena is also a testament to its overwhelming success. In the late 1970's when Mr. Yunus was developing his theory of micro-credit, the idea of loaning to the extreme poor, and especially to women, was almost completely unheard of in Bangladesh or in the modern world of banking. Initially Mr. Yunus thought he could convince the local bank to provide the loans to the poor villagers. When he approached the bank with his plan, the manager flat out refused, stating that credit to the poor was unprofitable and not worth the effort. There is too much paperwork involved, the manager argued, and since the poor are by and large illiterate they will not be able to file the proper paperwork for a loan. They also have no collateral to guarantee repayment.

Profit, paperwork, and collateral are basic elements of today's banking system, as is known worldwide. Mr. Yunus, on the other hand, was positive that banking did not need to be this complicated and was determined to open an institution that went against traditional banking ideas. His objective was to provide the easiest route to financial success. Whether it was the most



profitable or sophisticated system of credit and banking did not matter. This was not easily accomplished, as he needed financial backing and government support to get his idea off the ground. To do so took much discussion, debate, and persuasion to convince people to go against the norms and back a new, unproven theory. Mr. Yunus, being an extremely well educated and distinguished man within the economic, academic, and government spheres of Bangladesh, was able to convince the necessary people to give him a chance to prove his theory. Gathering this political support was probably the most difficult aspect of starting the Grameen Bank. Mr. Yunus was positive that the money would be repaid because the loans were going to be used to meet basic survival needs. Repayment was necessary in order to receive further loans from the bank and continue providing for basic needs. To date, Grameen has a repayment rate of 95% on all their loans, which is an undeniable fact that Mr. Yunus's theory was accurate.

The other important political aspect of Grameen concerned the difficulty of operating under but not with the government of Bangladesh, which is rather corrupt. Muhammad Yunus made it very clear that he did not want his institution to be controlled by the Bangladeshi government. He wanted it to be for the people, owned by the people, and run by the people. When it came time to form an independent institution, separate from government banks, this proved to be a complicated process.

Originally Grameen began as a project supported and funded through the Bangladesh Krishi (Agriculture) Bank, a large national bank in the country. As it was not an independent institution, the Grameen project faced numerous smaller political obstacles of dealing with and finding common ground amongst traditional regional bankers to whom Mr. Yunus had to answer. Working within the constraints of a traditional banking framework meant there were constant critics that kept telling Mr. Yunus that his nontraditional concept could not work on a national scale. To prove them wrong, he set out to expand out of one village and across a whole district. After two years and tremendous success across a whole district, Mr. Yunus still encountered critics. It was then that the Grameen Bank was born. Mr. Yunus decided to keep expanding, across four new districts, but without funding from the national bank.

The development of this new, independent bank meant having to work through a corrupt government where the power

is highly centralized in an elite group. Luckily for Grameen, Mr. Yunus was a well connected and determined man. He knew people in the government that supported his vision and helped him turn it into a reality. Although Mr. Yunus and Grameen were lucky to know the right people in government, other groups and organizations eager to start a micro-credit project might not be so fortunate. This is why, from a political stand point, Grameen is such an important case to study. It offers a successful model and prototype for supporters of micro-credit to take to their own governments and seek backing for their own institutions. Grameen has paved the way for more micro-credit institutions, in more places, to help more people.

This idea of small loans from non-profit based, non-government banks, which provide for the poor, may have started in Bangladesh with Grameen, but it does not end there. The idea has grown and spread internationally to hundreds of other countries, with direct help and guidance from Grameen and Muhammad Yunus.

The international dimensions of the Grameen Bank are ever expanding. One of the first international aspects Grameen encountered came when Mr. Yunus decided to break away from the national bank under which it was operating. He turned to the Ford Foundation, which is a U.S.-based organization, to provide a "safety-net" fund or security for other investors in this "risky" venture. In 1981, Grameen received \$800,000 from the Foundation, which it deposited in a London bank but never had to use. Grameen also received significant start-up funds from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, based in Rome. Grameen received similar money and grants from international institutions like the World Bank and from individual national governments. While initial start-up of the independent bank relied primarily on international donors, Grameen is proud to state that they are now self-sufficient and no longer rely on donor funds. In fact, "it finances 90 percent of its total outstanding loan of 13.45 billion Taka [Bangladeshi currency] from its own fund and the savings from its depositors, over 82 percent of whom are its borrowers. Grameen does not anticipate any need to

solicit donor money or even take new loans from internal or external sources in the future" (Yunus 235). This demonstrates Grameen's success as an independent bank. Moreover, it also shows that while international donors are an important part in conception of micro-credit institutions, they are not the sole provider. The problem with relying entirely on donor money is that resources are finite. When these funds run out, if the institution cannot provide for itself, then it cannot offer long-term help to the poor. Donors are essential for initial start-up of new micro-credit institutions, and this leads to another international aspect of Grameen.

This idea of small loans from non-profit based, non-government banks, which provide for the poor, may have started in Bangladesh with Grameen, but it does not end there. The idea has grown and spread internationally to hundreds of other countries, with direct help and guidance from Grameen and Muhammad Yunus. Grameen has set up a U.S.-based non-profit organization aimed at raising money called GF-USA, Grameen Foundation-USA. The primary function of GF-USA is to raise money that is used to start up new micro-credit institutions. Having needed donor help to get started, Grameen realizes the potential in already having money set aside for future endeavors. If money is already there to support new organizations, it will give people more incentive to get involved with micro-credit in their own country, thereby expanding and reaching more people worldwide. Grameen is the basis and the model for most micro-credit institutions found in the world. Of course, each of these institutions has modified the strategy to fit their culture and the people it is working with, but the basic concepts remain the same. Some countries that have successfully adopted and modified the Grameen model are Malaysia, the Philippines and India.

While providing a prosperous model, Grameen has also influenced the spread of the micro-credit philosophy in several other ways. In 1997, the bank helped launch the Micro-credit Summit Campaign (MSC). The MSC's first meeting brought together 2,900 people from 1,500 micro-credit institutions and 137 countries. The sizable gathering in and of itself reflects the worldwide willingness to accept and apply micro-credit principles to extreme poverty eradication. The campaign involves a pledge, by these countries and institutions, to bring credit to 100 million of the world's poorest citizens. By the 2003 summit, the campaign had reportedly reached 41.6 million people, and members are confident that the goal will be reached (Grameen Bank).

It is widely acknowledged that micro-credit loans are not enough to bring whole countries out of poverty. "It is a slow process, often nudging, rather than pushing people out of the

grips of poverty. The path is truly a 'long and winding road' but even small advances by western standards are still quite significant to those who are truly poor" (Fugate and Lassk). Micro-credit is not an overreaching program that seeks to help as many people at one time as it can, such as those implemented by World Bank and IMF. There is still a responsibility from the government to provide for and take care of its people, but micro-credit institutions can help.

Micro-credit is a tool for the poor and any of Grameen's successes can be contributed to their resilience, and determination to provide a better life for themselves and their families. The success of the MSC campaign and similar micro-credit institutions in other countries demonstrates that micro-credit, typically based on the Grameen Bank model, is a significant resource to reducing poverty. Not only does the Grameen Bank address several of the overwhelming factors that cause the poverty cycle in its home country of Bangladesh, but it seeks to spread its theory elsewhere and in doing so provide a dependable, successful blueprint of micro-credit for others to adopt and reproduce.

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## Re: Globalization

“International economic institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) provide the rules for a global economy that is maintained by prominent power differences between the global South and North. The World Bank and the IMF demand “structural adjustment programs” from their creditor nations in exchange for giving out loans to countries. Initially, these programs were supposed to make it easier for developing countries to pay back their debt. However, when implemented in real life, these regulations became the equivalent of a new type of colonialism. Tax reforms, trade and financial liberalization, and privatization of state ventures often resulted in decreased social and educational opportunities, and increased poverty and pollution for the developing countries. In 1997, for example, developing countries got \$269 billion in loans, yet they were \$292 billion in debt! Again, this led to increased inequality, as this meant that \$23 billion was actually transferred to the global North from the South.”

**Tiffany Simpson**

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Recommending Faculty: Dr. Jennifer Dornan

“I found myself tearing up at John Bul Dau’s reunion with his mother. She was so unchanged, and he had changed so much. And neither is for the worse. I think both sides should be celebrated. And I wish the world felt that way as well, so that the freedom of the foreign culture of the Sudanese was something we would fight for. The Sudan crisis reflects much of history, when one culture, religion, or ethnic group feels superior enough to another that they attempt to wipe them out. It also shows how nations in power pick and choose who is worth saving and who isn’t.”

**Jessica Colt**

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# SHIFTING GLOBAL DYNAMICS AND REGIONAL TRADE BLOCKS IN LATIN AMERICA: THE CASE OF URUGUAY AND MERCOSUR

ISAIAH ULMER

The economic integration model that led to the establishment of the Southern Common Market between Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, most commonly recognized as Mercosur, is currently in a state of distress. The crisis has been caused by Uruguay's voicing of opinion that they have been left out of some of the major decision-making processes of the trade block, and their declaration that they have not reaped the benefits of Mercosur in the same way that the two dominant members, Argentina and Brazil, have. The President of Brazil, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, has consistently mentioned that Uruguay should be more than satisfied with the benefits they are receiving from Mercosur ("Lula...").

In response to Uruguay's lack of confidence with the trade block, President Tabare Vazquez of Uruguay has begun to further his international relations policy with the United States of America. In March, President Vazquez and President Bush declared their optimism about an open regional integration process, while, Vazquez also mentioned that he pledged his continuing allegiance to the South American trade block, and their view of a strong regional integration process. Furthermore, back in February, Uruguay signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) with the United States, which could cause a number of issues to arise within the trade block; and, in fact, they already have. Before reviewing what is at stake if Uruguay furthers their TIFA with the United States (which could result in the signing of a full on Free Trade Agreement), it is of utmost importance to reflect upon the brief history and development of Mercosur.

The genesis of Mercosur can be traced back to one of the first models of economic integration attempted in 1960 under the Treaty of Montevideo, a model that created the Latin American Free Trade Association (LAFTA). This idea of creating models of integration was furthered with the 1980 Treaty of Montevideo, a treaty that established the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA). Both of these treaties were meant to develop a Latin American Common Market (Haines-Ferrari 2).

"On the other hand, MERCOSUR embodies a radical shift of focus in the economic strategy of integration applied by LAFTA and LAIA, both of which were grounded on import substitution policies," states Haines-Ferrari, adding that, "changing trends in the world economy, which required innovative production patterns through improved technology rendered such integration schemes utterly unworkable" (Haines-Ferrari 2). Beginning in the mid-1980s, several countries in Latin American found themselves plagued by economic stagnation and increasingly marginalized by the

international community. This drove many of them to restructure their relationships with one another and with the industrialized world.

Mercosur was then viewed as simply reflecting the new role of economic integration, which was to close the gap between Member States' economies and the global economy by looking for competitiveness of home country products through research and development, rather than by increasing trade. Toward the latter part of the 1950s and during the beginning of the 1960s, intra-regional relationships among South American countries were weak (Haines-Ferrari 2). Weak relationships could not have come at a worse time, because it was during this period that economic ties with global markets were critical to the autonomous growth and development of Latin American Countries. "In fact, exports to industrialized markets had provided the basis for the transition from primary to manufactured goods. In order to overcome this pattern, various Latin American countries began to apply import-substitution policies" (Haines-Ferrari 2).

It is true that under LAFTA intra-regional trade increased, as Haines-Ferrari writes, but as intra-regional trade increased, it did not necessarily boost domestic growth. Individual growth did increase, however, as a result of sustained exports to foreign nations. "The 1980 Montevideo Treaty replaced LAFTA with the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), aiming to re-launch integration through a legal model that established a multilateral system just short of a Free Trade Area—an Economic Preferential Zone" (Haines-Ferrari 3). LAIA continued to implement LAFTA's import substitution policies with the regions of Latin American, but countries favored world market linkages. The 1970s and 1980s slowed exports from Latin American countries to developed market places—one of the many results of the oil crisis. As a result, large external debts accumulated, the majority of Latin American countries reassessed their focus on reciprocal protectionism, while investment in the Latin American economy declined.

In the middle part of the 1980s, Argentina and Brazil were working toward reorganizing their development strategies, with the hope of overcoming international economic marginalization. As a result, Argentina and Brazil reformulated their ideas on integration. "Integration was no longer to be regarded as incompatible with the development of extra-regional links and was no longer to be based on rigid, uniform frameworks. Instead, integration was conceived as a strategy enabling domestic production to be increased and enhanced, satisfying the requirements of both the regional and the international market" (Haines-Ferrari 4). The main goal of this integration



...it is important to note that Mercosur is not just a socioeconomic block, but that it is also an intricate and changing “cultural reality.”

was to foster “entrepreneurial networks”. In 1991 the Treaty of Asuncion, a treaty that integrated a good portion of the 1990 Buenos Aires Act, was drafted by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, with the hope of forming a Common Market by 1994. This is what is commonly referred to as the beginning of Mercosur. The treaty adopted the principle of full reciprocity of rights, and abandoned the concept of dynamic equilibrium and of symmetry applied by the Argentine-Brazilian Agreements. A commitment was established in order to sustain balance within the legislation in pertinent areas to help strengthen the integrity and commitment of the integration process (Haines-Ferrari 7).

According to Ronaldo Munck, author of *Globalization, Regionalism and Labour: The Case of MERCOSUR*, regional integration must be understood as a process and not as an event (14). He mentions this is due to the various processes Mercosur has gone through in order to be where it is today as a trade block. “While monetary and fiscal stability was uppermost in the minds of the region’s governors, they significantly pledged themselves to confront jointly the ‘pressing social problems of the region’ and to ‘eradicate poverty and all forms of discrimination’” (Munck 14).

As Munck mentions, it is important to note that Mercosur is not just a socioeconomic block, but that it is also an intricate and changing “cultural reality.” This is to say, in concordance with Garcia Canclini’s introduction to his work *Imagined Globalization*, the relation between globalization and regional integration in diverse cultures is becoming of utmost importance in both research and international negotiations. “In relation to Mercosur, regionalization was intended to make the area more competitive for globalization, but it also has to be seen as a significant bulwark against any re-emergence of military regimes” (Munck 16). While Mercosur is, as Munck affirms, a space for economic integration, it is also a new space for social interaction (16).

As of January 25, 2007, Uruguay signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) with the United States. This is a source of preoccupation for Mercosur, since it is commonly understood that a TIFA is usually the precursor to a full on free trade agreement, which would be in violation of the trade blocks international policy agreements. In an article entitled “Uruguay Signs TIFA with the U.S.: Will this Mean an Unraveling of Mercosur or is Montevideo Maneuvering to be Left Out in the Cold?” Katherine Hancy Wheeler writes that the organization seems to be moving further and further away from endeavors dealing with trade and the development of Latin American countries, and becoming more political, and quite frankly, anti-American. One of Uruguay’s central arguments against Mercosur is that they feel they are not receiving the same benefits as dominant members of Mercosur. Wheeler mentions that few argue the fact that not only Uruguay, but Paraguay as well, are not receiving the same benefits as the “Goliath members” Brazil and Argentina.

A large amount of Uruguay’s discontent with the trade block stems from the rising border issue which involves Argentina and Uruguay. This particular quarrel revolves around the fact that authorities in Montevideo, the Uruguayan capital, proposed to allow the construction of a pulp mill on the Uruguayan side of the river that serves as a border between the two countries. In response, Argentine activists have stalled trade along the river and slowed construction of the mill in protest of what they consider a potential source of pollution of the river and shoreline (Wheeler 2). When Uruguay attempted to raise this issue at the January Summit, Argentina immediately refused to discuss the matter. Uruguay tried recruiting the support of Brazil and other members, but Brazil insisted that the disagreement was a bilateral matter, and was of little significance to Mercosur as a whole. Uruguay’s finance minister, Danilo Astori, signals that part of Uruguay’s reasoning behind signing a TIFA with the U.S. is that Uruguay relies too heavily on the goodwill of Brazil and Argentina. “The U.S. already is Uruguay’s leading trade partner and an FTA with the U.S. could possibly give Montevideo the necessary political weight to gain some leverage on in its border dispute with Argentina” (Wheeler 3).

With respect to ideas behind the real U.S plan regarding their involvement in Uruguay, some have mentioned that the desire of the United States to sign a TIFA with Uruguay could have little or nothing at all to do with trade, and the development of smaller nations, but more with building up White House diplomatic and economic leverage in the southern cone (Wheeler 3). If Uruguay’s main intent is to eventually sign a Free Trade Agreement with the U.S., Mercosur will be faced with two decisions: kick Uruguay out of the trade block or

change its common external tariff to allow current members to enter bilateral trade agreement with foreign nations. If it adopts the latter decision, it could be that Mercosur would be undermining its core values and principles as a union. A Free Trade Agreement between Uruguay and the U.S., as some have suggested, could potentially destroy the last of the indigenous block power and allow the U.S. to intensify its influence all over Latin America. “Mercosur exists to unite South America under its own collective terms and to give smaller nations like Uruguay the necessary leverage to make substantial demands upon its trade partners” (Wheeler 5). If Mercosur is afraid that Uruguay will leave the trade block and fall victim to many of the unfortunate consequences involved in dealing with FTA’s, (much like Mexico is experiencing with NAFTA thirteen years later), then it will have to reassess the role and involvement of junior members within the union as a whole. This is to say, they will have to return to what Mercosur was originally based on and begin, once again, to look away from motives of self-interest in a committed effort toward both the social and economic development of Latin America.

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# REFLECTIVE ESSAY: JOHN BUL DAU AND GOD GREW TIRED OF US

SARAH BIGGERSTAFF

John Bul Dau's lecture, along with the film *God Grew Tired of Us*, was an example of globalization at work not only in our society but in the world around us. Years ago it would have been unlikely for a group of predominantly Hispanic and Caucasian American college students to gather around to listen to the life story and advice of an African man from Sudan. Students not only listened to him, but were inspired and taken by his story. Today we are, indeed, learning from one another like never before, helping each other and sometimes even embracing one another. John Bul Dau's story is an excellent example of this, and there will be many more to come in the future, so long as people are open to accepting it.

The film, *God Grew Tired of Us* is a fascinating and remarkable recollection of the lives of a group of 3,600 Sudanese boys who were selected to come to America for the possibility of a brighter future. The boys were part of a United States refugee camp for Sudanese people waiting to go back home after the war in Sudan ended. This war began in 1983 and continued for much longer than expected. During the war, many Sudanese families were torn apart, and thousands of people were murdered or went missing. The term "lost boys" refers to a group of 25,000 men who fled the wars in Sudan in the 1980's. John Dau reflects on the boys' lives in Sudan along the way, saying, "I thought God got tired of us and he wanted to finish us." This is the point of departure for the film. The story focuses on the lives of three "lost boys" in particular, John Bul Dau, Daniel, and Panther. The boys travel to Syracuse, New York where they live in an apartment and begin to work.

*God Grew Tired of Us* is an excellent example of cultural globalization and of cultural integration. Arriving from Sudan, the three boys overcame numerous obstacles, entering an entirely new culture and way of life in America. They had absolutely no conception of what electricity was, an apartment, showering, Santa Clause or even Christmas trees, along with other American customs and cultural values. They had to adjust to the shock of trying new foods, finding and holding multiple jobs, and working long hours every day in order to send money to their families back home.

The boys adapted to American culture over a period of months and years in New York. They soon began to dream of receiving a higher education and higher paying jobs, mostly for purposes of sending more money to their families. At one point in the film, John Bul Dau commented that it was very important to him and to the other Sudanese boys to maintain aspects of their own culture while adjusting to life in America. To maintain their own culture, the boys continued eating their meals communally and with their hands as opposed to using silverware, and continued singing and dancing amongst themselves in the traditional Sudanese fashion.

One of the most striking things in *God Grew Tired of Us* was John Bul Dau's mission to help change the world. John Bul Dau became inspired to attend college. He aspired to use the knowledge and experience he obtained during his time in the United States to build children's clinics back in Sudan. John Bul Dau's inspiration to build a clinic strikes at the heart of glo-

balization. Not only did he immerse himself in a culture different from his own, but he applied the knowledge and experiences he learned in the United States to support progress and development in his own home country.

During his lecture at St. Edward's University, John Bul Dau went into much greater depth about the "lost boys'" journey out of Sudan. He spoke graphically about their struggle to survive, to find food and water, and what it was like for him to see many other Sudanese boys die along the way. By the time John Dau and his group arrived to Ethiopia, there were only four surviving boys, including himself. Listening to John Dau's lecture was inspiring because it made me put my own struggles into perspective.

John Bul Dau closed his lecture by telling students to never give up on their dreams. He told us to embrace our struggles instead of resisting them, and to keep pushing forward even when things seem impossible. His final statement reminded students to give back to their communities, in whatever way they felt touched to do so. Today at the age of 32, John Bul Dau has founded the American Care for Sudan Foundation (ACSF), which is a non-profit organization in New York that provides medical assistance through medicine, medical doctors and clinics to people living in Sudan. The ACSF provides basic healthcare services to the Sudanese, as well as ophthalmology, obstetrics, and dental patient care programs. The organization also provides literacy and basic educational programs. Today, John Bul Dau travels back and forth between his home in Sudan and his new home in America to

promote not only the ACSF, but his cause in general. He encourages people to give back to their communities, to their people, and to their country in a way that they feel passionate about. He reminds us to never give up in this endeavor, no matter the obstacles with which we are faced.

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# A STEP UP THE LADDER: MEXICO AND CHINA

CHRISTINA TIMMS

In the world of industrial goods, whether it is textiles, automotive, or assembling of technologies, two leading competitors are Mexico and China. The two countries are in a race to the bottom to produce exports in the cheapest, quickest, and most efficient manner. Both countries utilize power relations and imbalances, and gender inequality to move a step up on the ladder of development. This study focuses on what these countries are willing to compromise for the next step up. Lowering wages, neglecting human rights for workers, and selective implementation of laws and regulations that protect female factory workers are among the sacrifices involved. This complex issue raises a profound question: how far will a country go to hold onto the bottom line of production costs in order to move up in the export world and climb the global ladder of economic development?

## TERMS AND CONCEPTS

It is crucial to understand the concepts that frame the issue of the race to the bottom. Power relations and power imbalance refer to power implications among multinational companies, the government, the worker, and everyone in between. In both Mexico and China, it is generally the company that holds the most power and the worker the least. One consequence of this imbalance is that female workers tend to be nearly helpless in the hands of their government and of transnational companies. Without power the female factory worker cannot demand better wages or safer working conditions. The relation of power and its extreme imbalance sets the stage for the rest of the concepts related to this issue.

The race toward cheap production is closely tied to gender inequality. In Mexico and China the use of women in factories

For every \$1.00 USD of wealth generated in the global economy, high income countries receive about 80 cents, and low income countries, with the most extreme concentrations of poverty, and with 40% of the world's population, receive around three cents.

was neither innocent nor accidental. Both countries sought to have women work in the factories because the companies did not want to use men, who they thought would be more likely to unite in protest if not well treated. Since both countries are inherently patriarchal nations, it was assumed that women would be easier to control and exploit than their more assertive male counterparts.

In "A Handbook for Value Chain Research," Raphael Kaplinsky and Mike Morris describe a value chain as the "full range of activities which are required to bring a product or service from conception, through different phases of production (involving a combination of physical transformation and the input of various producer services), delivery to final consumers, and final disposal after use" (4). In a simplified value chain, there are four links: design and product development, production, marketing, and finally consumption recycling. The concept of the value chain is, perhaps, best understood as the top and bottom of a mountain. The bottom of the mountain has the lowest value on the chain, and the top has the greatest value. In both Mexico and China, the ones with the least value are the female factory workers. As the product they make goes up the chain, its value increases. At the top of the value chain is the company that makes the most profit from the product made. It is interesting to see the same garment made by a factory worker at sixty cents an hour turns into a garment that is sold to a consumer for sixty dollars. The value of the product goes up exponentially, but the value assigned to the woman in the factory and her work does not.

The ladder of development is a way to explain the economic progress of a country. As Jeffery Sachs explains in his book,

The End of Poverty, the lowest rung would be assigned to developing countries in regions fighting extreme poverty. With each step up the ladder of development, a country becomes more stable. Each step allows a given country more economic gain and more participation in the global economic and the political playing field. When multinational companies establish factories in a country, this foreign investment helps that country reach a new step in the ladder of development. In spite of the many issues surrounding these factories, the factories do provide constant work and wages—harsh working conditions and poor wage aside. Almost every country trying to move up the ladder has, at some point, hosted industrial factories.

## LOW WAGES

To understand the importance of low wages in relation to developing countries like Mexico and China, we must first understand something about the distribution of economic wealth. For every \$1.00 USD of wealth generated in the global economy, high income countries receive about 80 cents, and low income countries, with the most extreme concentrations of poverty, and with 40% of the world's population, receive around three cents (Watkins 69). This global perspective shows how the race to the bottom contributes to the uneven distribution of economic wealth and the standard of low wages in developing countries like Mexico and China.

In Mexico, there are three kinds of minimum wage, each wage specific to a region in Mexico. All three wages are still very low, but in the industrial region along the U.S and Mexico border, the wage is the lowest of all three and ranges from \$93 to \$103 U.S. dollars a month (Chan & Ross 11). According to the National Commission of Minimum Wages, this is the legal



wage set for the region but may not reflect what the people are actually making.

In China, the minimum wage is ever changing. Unlike most Western countries that have one national minimum wage, China boasts hundreds of them. Each city or district decides its own minimum wage with a formula given by the central government in Beijing. The formula consists of the rate of inflation, cost of living, and wage set at the time (Chan & Ross 10). Unfortunately, many of the female factory workers are migrant workers that do not get paid the minimum wage. It has also become common for workers not to receive payments at all. When we consider illegally long working hours and non-payment, many women are living well under the minimum wage set (Chain 3). Furthermore, in both countries women migrate to the urban areas in which the factories are located. Many of the women must send money back to their family. This leaves little for them to survive on. These women not only work, but also live in places that are unfit to live in. Many share a room with five to six other women, sometimes without running water or electricity. Both countries are different in their methods, but ultimately achieve the same results of profit making at the expense of exploitation.

Even though this existence is harsh, many of these women, nonetheless, feel empowered because they are making a living for themselves. Both China and Mexico are notoriously patriarchal nations. In these countries it has been and sometimes still is common for women to be married off to the man chosen by their parents. They are also to take care of the men in the family without hesitation. Women are less likely to get an education similar to that of their brothers. The factories provide these women with another way of life: to choose their own husband, make their own money, to try to get an education or a learned trade, and to be able to rely on themselves and not a man for survival. It is important not to overlook this positive dimension of the issue of female workers in factories and to acknowledge some of the positive impacts factories have had on the economy and on the role of women in some countries.

#### NEGLECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

One of the worst cases of human rights being neglected can be found in the factories in Juarez, Mexico. Although the race to the bottom is not the immediate explanation for escalating crime in the area, the examples that follow illustrate the extremes that have happened when companies fail to ensure the safety of their employees. Since 1993, over seventy-five women have disappeared on their way to work at the factories, or on their way home (Nieves 2). Every morning before the sun comes up these women wait at unlit bus stops to take

them to the factories. If a woman worker arrives at the factory late, she is not allowed in and must find her own way back home. Particularly during these fearful and dark times, women have been kidnapped, raped, and murdered before anyone knows they have gone missing. The state government of Chihuahua turned a blind eye to the missing women for years. Many of the women's bodies were found in a ditch close to the maquiladoras, the factories, but the government did not intervene until civil rights activists marched repeatedly to the Attorney General's office demanding more assertive investigations. Finally, President Vicente Fox promised to send federal investigators by January. None of them had arrived as of early spring (Nieves 3). The factories these women work at have not increased security, so these women leave their shifts without any security patrols or comfort in knowing they will get home safely.

In China, the harsh working conditions have contributed to thousands of recalled products, mostly children's toys. Chinese factory workers have not been given safety equipment, and therefore have been inhaling toxic lead paints they use on children's toys without knowing it (Holland 1). Female workers in China rarely get any kind of medical insurance and are paid so little they cannot afford medical attention on their own. The women of Chinese factories also endure physical and verbal abuse at the hands of their managers. In the privacy of factory walls, these managers get away with abusing the staff because they have no one to answer to. And the power imbalance in the industry continues to be ratified by a common practice of no punishment or consequences for abusive behavior.

#### SELECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF LABOR LAWS AND REGULATIONS

In June of 2006, China passed a labor contract law, which was designed to prevent abuse of migrant workers by establishing stronger employment contracts and giving unions more say (Dyer 2). Dr. Harry Harding, Professor of International Affairs at George Washington University, who has won awards for his research on China and the Pacific Rim, has expressed his concern with this law's implementation: "It will be hard to tell if the law will actually be implemented or only selectively." (Dyer 1) The trouble in China is not the lack of regulations safeguarding factory workers, but the failure to implement the laws by the government. In the race to the bottom, the government turns a blind eye to the defiance of these laws by the factories. The government allows laws to be disregarded in order to keep companies and economic growth within the country. Implementing the laws could lead corporations to find less developed countries that would not hold them accountable.

Harley Shaiken proposes in *Work, Development, and Globalization* that although China may develop higher skilled jobs, the wage may not increase at the same rate. Higher technological companies are going to flock to China to manufacture goods because of the surplus of educated labor that does not expect a high income. General Motors, for instance, plans to increase their purchasing of products from China from 1.1 billion in 2002, up to 10 billion (ibid, quoted in Shaiken, 22).

Along with China, Mexico is facing a similar transition to higher technological jobs. These companies are a top priority for the Mexican government. As Dr. Harding explained, the balance between competition and cooperation is a difficult balance to find. The Mexican government has great control over important Mexican assets like pharmaceuticals and electronics that make up much of the economic wealth of the country. Meanwhile, the textile factories, and the Mexican citizens that work there, remain at the bottom of the value chain. As pharmaceutical, automotive, and electronic industries rise in Mexico, the need for economic gain from the textile maquiladoras or assembly plants will decrease. Women workers will have to learn new skills compatible with the factories the Mexican government is deeply interested in. This too will bring Mexico into the next rung on the ladder, but as in China, the next rung does not solidify better wages for the workers.

#### ECONOMIC DIMENSION OF CHINA AND MEXICO

The rise of factories in China has also changed the global economic landscape and China's place in the global community. Mexico and China struggle in competition with each other to export goods and increase their economic gain. China provides international companies with cheaper labor than Mexico, which also creates more profit for the companies. In Mexico, although the workers are paid slightly better; their important economic tool is location. The products can be shipped to the United States quickly and cheaply, which keeps factories in Mexico profiting. Another economic advantage Mexico has over China is the absence of quota restrictions due to the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA (Chan & Ross 4). The fact that many women work in maquiladoras near the U.S.-Mexico boarder allows women to provide for their families and depend less on the men being the sole earners. This has allowed for a new position for the role of Mexican women.

#### INTERACTION BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS AND CHANGES UNDERWAY: MEXICO

Mexico boasts some of the largest and well-organized labor unions, with help from countries like the United States. For example, the Solidev Independent Labor Union, which consists

of workers who produce semiconductors for the Pentagon and the U.S Department of State, received support from all over the world, including from the United States and Mexico. The Solidev Union fought for over two years to improve working conditions (Prieto 81). In the end, the union won improved benefits for workers, salary increases, compensations, more egalitarian relations between workers and management, and greater job security (Prieto 82). All along the U.S and Mexican border, groups of both American and Mexican citizens are fighting to improve the lives of the female workers.

In Mexico, the stigma of factory work as feminine has decreased. Now there are many men on the assembly lines, which were once thought of as work exclusively for women. With men in the factories as well, both genders are working together to help improve the conditions and wages of all factory workers.

#### INTERACTION BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS AND CHANGES UNDERWAY: CHINA

In China, the decline in population in the future will increase wages and stabilize employment. Due to China's one-child policy, the population is expected to slowly decrease. This will allow better-educated people to go into the workforce in pursuit of jobs that require more skills than factory work.

China is presently in the midst of passing legislation in favor of the factory worker, but it is not that simple when U.S businesses are unhappy about the idea of the legislation. Yet in China, over two hundred thousand people have sent in their opinions in favor of the reform (Dyer 1). This intense issue weighs heavy on the Chinese government. Passing legislation that will protect its people while at the same time keeping multinational companies happy so that they remain in China is a delicate compromise.

In the end, attention should not be focused exclusively on Mexico and China, but on all countries. The race to the bottom will have to be solved by civil organizations working with multinational companies and with the governments of different countries. As Michael Edwards explains in *Global Citizen Action*, "the consequence of this dilemma is likely to be a switch from 'conversion' strategies (the traditional view of advocacy) to 'engagement' strategies, which will support a process of dialogue rather than simply lobbying for a fixed set of outcomes" (Edwards 10). This new perspective proves that civil organizations cannot fight against the companies and governments, but must work in cooperation to come to a compromise. Solving this quandary cannot become reality if the line is drawn and civil organizations are on one side and the companies and governments on the other. As Ed-

wards concisely explains, “To support this shift, civic groups will need to develop a range of new skills and competencies in public communications, and they will need to work with academics, think tanks, trade unions, and others who can help them develop and articulate more nuanced positions on trade and labor issues, adapted to different country contexts” (Edwards 11).

The work of civil society organizations does not stop at open dialogue with multinational companies and governments. As Edwards writes, “codes of conduct to govern multinational corporations ...are of little use unless backed by large consumer pressure to enforce them... the major responsibility is likely to fall on civil society organizations, since it is they who have the public trust and international connections to talk plainly and convincingly about matters of global justice” (Edwards 10). According to Edwards, civil society organizations will have to rethink traditional citizen advocacy and find other ways to stimulate the world to find a long-term goal to end this injustice. This is a crucial element in stopping the race to the bottom and involving people on a global level. As globalization continues to blur the lines between countries, people will have to adapt to new perspectives. If our economies are so interrelated that a black cloud of environmentally hazardous gases over China could affect the world’s weather, then we should also be affected when our neighbors need help to increase their living standards.

#### IN CONCLUSION

The race to the bottom is not defined only by the competition between Mexico and China. These two countries only show how far the bottom goes in its current dynamic. With the lack of payment in China and the brutality towards women in Mexico, the next developing countries in line for the economic gain of factory work will prove how much lower the race to the bottom will stoop. It will again be ultimately up to the people of those countries along with their global community to stand up and improve the conditions of labor. Unions and organizations will have to join together and not allow these multinational companies always to think in terms of bottom line economic profit. Human life and people’s quality of life are more important than a little extra money in the company’s pocket. As global enterprises expand, the global community must not let the race to the bottom plummet into a type of darkness that the next generation could call a loss of humanity on a global scale.

*Never treat human beings as a mere means to an end, but always as ends in themselves.*

**Immanuel Kant, *Principles Of Ends***

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CULF 3331 Global Inequality

Fall 2007

Recommending Faculty: Dr. Gwen Sullivan

## Re: Globalization

The UN population center estimates that human population will stabilize 200 years from now at 11.6 billion.

Do you think it is possible for our planet to support this many people?

What changes need to be made to continue to ensure that life on this planet is viable, even for current populations?

Jane Adolph

#### Originally Written For:

CULF 3330 History and Evolution of Global Processes

Fall 2007

Recommending Faculty: Dr. Jennifer Dornan



# The Third Stage of Globalization

## Andres Bu-Soto

Martin Walker's "Globalization 3.0" which appeared in *The Wilson Quarterly* August 2007, describes the historical development of globalization and how the current stage, Globalization 3.0, has shifted the power in the global economy from the West into the hands of China and India.

The first stage of globalization, according to Walker, took place prior to WWI, and saw the rise of Western institutions as dominating the world economy. Then after WWII, the United States dominated the global economy as the world recovered from the destruction of the war. This period saw the rise of the World Bank and other world trade organizations that contributed to the West's domination over world markets. After September 11, 2001, however, China and India as well as developing nations have begun to dominate the global marketplace. Walker suggests that the roots for this shift, in fact, hark back to the end of Desert Storm.

This emerging third stage of globalization, which Walker calls Globalization 3.0, has witnessed China as a new model for economic relationships. The Chinese offer alternatives to the IMF and the World Bank for foreign loans. Asian and African economies are taking over international trade as the U.S. becomes the world's largest debtor. Plus, growing populations in China and India are providing labor for cheaper and increased numbers of goods. Walker is quick to point out that the developing countries not only have banking alternatives, but they have also begun organizations and institutions

of their own. This is why, he explains, the U.S. and the West no longer dominate global economic power. The future of Globalization 3.0, nonetheless, is uncertain because the West has slowly realized that free trade harms the environment and is no longer beneficial for national economies. While Walker makes many strong points in his article, he seems to gloss over the leveling effect of globalization on the international playing field and how the increased populations of China and India may be the leading cause for the shift in economic power, rather than a real decline in Western influence.

The strengths of Walker's argument hinge on his explanation of the historical development of globalization. The rise of the U.S. as an economic leader did stem from economic strength after World War II, especially when Congress and the United Nations passed legislation like the Marshall Plan and enabled the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and other institutions that provide aid to the rest of the world. Nonetheless, the U.S. lost its impact in the global market after the war in Iraq under President George H.W. Bush. China and India as well as other newly industrialized countries (NICs) began gaining trading power over time as the global economy

spread and became a gateway to trade. Developing countries were seeing a period of rapid growth and development, especially compared to the so called "First World" nations.

Countries that refrained from entering the global economy suffered since no nation had enough natural resources to be totally self-sufficient. Walker does not mention this, nor does he comment on how the economic playing field is flattened due to the way globalization equalizes the power of developed and newly emerging market nations through a need to trade resources. Certainly the OPEC nations have increased in influence due to their control over most of the World's oil, but what will happen to them when traditional gasoline is no longer the main source of energy for vehicles or these nations cannot create stable political infrastructures to support continued safe transport of oil for exportation? Nigeria, for example, is one of the OPEC countries that have not yet established a truly stable government. One wonders what the fate of the oil trade is when such instability and threat of violence is high.

Rapid growth in China and India should not overshadow the fact that the West may no longer be seeing rapid growth due the nature of growth curves and not due to Globalization 3.0, as Walker argues. As countries reach a certain level of development, modernization, and growth, eventually they reach a point of marginal diminishing returns as modernization reaches an optimum point. Perhaps the West has reached that point and that is why these countries are now looking at environmental conservation and ways to prevent global warming. Since they do not have to focus on growth, these countries may now have the time and money to look outward

rather than inward. In the future, as China and India reach maximum growth, they may also look outward to protect the environment. China may also develop more of a middle class and give its people a more democratic government. Although China may not look at the human rights actions of its trading partners, within the country itself there is gradual growth toward more democratic practices. Walker fails to mention economic free zones which were first created in Shenzhen and Hong Kong, and how they will impact globalization. Cities like Guangzhou, for instance, where industrialization has dominated, have changed the way in which the Chinese government responds to local elections. With the Olympic Games coming to China in 2008, China is becoming even more cosmopolitan and open to the World than before. In other words, the nations of the World are becoming more similar in their institutions rather than more different. Walker glosses over this trend as well, explaining it as an element of Globalization 3.0, instead of considering it the national result of the overall global shift of the economic community.

Certainly the West is losing dominance in global economics, but so long as the economic wealth and investment power come from the West and not developing nations, the important decisions may still come from a Western perspective. Globalization 3.0 has in fact diluted the power of each nation in the global market and this levels the overall playing field rather than totally shifting power from the West to either China or India.

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Recommending Faculty: Dr. Bob Strong



## A Response to Charlie Rose's September 24, 2007 interview with Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

**Kayleigh Bradley**

The palpable misunderstandings between the politicians and media in a developing country and a developed country are depicted in interviews such as Charlie Rose's September 24, 2007 discussion with Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Aside from the language barrier, the two gentlemen were further separated by culture and ideological convictions that sometimes brought both parties to desperate and frustrated chuckles at the other's statements. Overall, this conversation exemplified the struggle for autonomy among developing nations, the impact of United States cultural imperialism, and the importance of respect and tolerance for peoples, worldwide.

The first, and perhaps most predictable, question posed to the Iranian leader was that of the stability and US presence in Iraq. President Ahmadinejad's cool rebuttal was indicative of the historically strong Iranian opposition to foreign (U.S.) occupation in the Middle East: "we support the United State's withdrawal from Iraq." The president later added that he believes that the shared culture and understanding between Iran and Iraq would make Iran the most beneficial participant in helping Iraq "run the affairs of the country" independently. Underlying President Ahmadinejad's claims was his certainty that the United States "[does] not understand the politics of the Middle East very well, or very deeply". Responding to this comment, Charlie Rose noted that Iran's inconsistent and nonexistent cooperation in resolution strategies may have kept U.S. understanding "out of the picture" and furthered international questioning of the Middle East's ability to self-govern. Ahmadinejad answered these comments by explaining that no proposition had been accepted because there was no comprehensive proposal submitted. This "do everything, or do nothing at all" approach has been a recurring dilemma throughout my study of international development.

The final element of the conversation of major concern to

Americans was President Ahmadinejad's account of the past, present and future of internal affairs in Iran and Iraq. The president explored the negative effects of their past "pro-American" government, claiming that Iran was "impoverished, humiliated and without an identity." When Rose questioned President Ahmadinejad's prediction that an unoccupied Middle East would be thriving and independent in the future, by saying that U.S. involvement could help the Middle East enter the global community, the Iranian president held back his laughter, saying "Iran has been a part of the global community for thousands of years." This concise, yet pertinent truth challenges the American idea that "the U.S. way is the only way" to deal in the international community.

Many concerned citizens throughout the world hear politicians like Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speak and are fearful of his non-traditional rulings. However, often it is easy to overlook the detrimental participation of one's own country in foreign affairs. President Ahmadinejad's statements concerning the over-involvement of the United States are intriguing and indicative of the egotistical imperialism that leads the U.S. to believe that we have it all figured out.

As with any political controversy, my opinions of Mahmoud

The Iranian president held back his laughter, saying  
**"Iran has been a part of the global community for thousands of years."**

Ahmadinejad, before and after his interview with Charlie Rose, varied. By comparing those variances, one can form a more open and educated opinion about Iran and the politics therein. At one point in his interview, Charlie Rose questioned the allegiance, both in Iran and outside of the country, to President Ahmadinejad, stating that many people have been "off put" by the president's style and ideologies. The president's response returned to his earlier claim that Americans do not understand the way the Middle East functions, and in attempting to judge their way of conducting business, the U.S. has formed uneducated and unfounded conclusions about Iran.

I believe that education is central to ending international conflicts, and I understand President Ahmadinejad's point that developed countries are not excused from communicating civilly with developing countries and making informed decisions based on what works best for the countries involved. Learning about the cultures, histories, systems and beliefs within a country is the first step toward mutual respect and toward the inclusion of developing nations in the interdependent global market of autonomous nations. This education, however, is likely to be biased within some countries, with war stories

and prejudice complicating the truth. The U.S. must uphold accuracy, respect and unbiased interpretations when educating, so as not to unjustly reinforce the supremacy of our own beliefs.

In his interview with Charlie Rose, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad spoke hopefully and had important insights on Iran's influence on the United States and the global community. His honesty in confronting the occupation of the Middle East in the past and the present elicited a new conversation on the negative implications of cultural imperialism, including the lack of adequate global education in the world today.

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Recommending Faculty: Dr. Samia El-Badry

## Re: Globalization

“In contemporary society there are many agents of globalization spanning multiple fields. Culture, technology, and economics all make contributions to trends in globalization, whether they enable or hinder the process. One thing these contributions have in common is that they come with a new global emphasis on efficiency and progress. Just as the prevalence of Western thought has begun to spread throughout the world, so has the Western work ethic and Westerners’ marvel with technology and the accumulation of wealth. While some innovations may seem unfamiliar to developing countries, their people

are, nonetheless, captivated by the concept of access to knowledge and to the rest of the world through global communications outlets. Many small villages and towns throughout the world that do not even have running water, for example, can be, and often are, equipped with a community cell phone or laptop computer through the power of satellite wireless capabilities. This attraction to feeling connected, whether physically or technologically, to other people thousands of miles away is the primary underlying agent of globalization and the main reason it has spread so quickly.”

**Megan Thomas**

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Recommending Faculty: Dr. Bob Strong



# introduction windows into global understandings

**Matt Hines**

A photograph has the unique ability to tell a story that is somehow bigger than itself. True, it only takes a fraction of a second for the camera to capture the image, but what is captured can often develop into a unique document of a person, place, or thing.

During the summer of 2007, I was one of twelve St. Edward's students who had the opportunity to record the stories of Xi'an, China with Photo Communications professor, Joe Vitone. In the seven weeks that we lived abroad, we made countless friends, learned the art of documentary photography, and studied Mandarin Chinese.

While in the People's Republic of China, we were lucky enough to document a story that is unfamiliar to most Americans. In turn, we hope that this collection of photographs can serve as a fresh experience for those who know little of the country and its people.

We could never have experienced the richness of Chinese culture ourselves without the help of the many patient students at Shaanxi Normal University in Xi'an. In telling their stories, we celebrate a special bond that transcends culture, politics, and tradition. And in sharing our photography, we hope to remember moments in which our stories coincided with those of our friends in China, if only for a short while.







## Faces of a Free Enterprise

Ryan Slack

My goal with this series of portraits is to document the owners and employees of various small businesses in Xi'an, China; a large northwestern city with a population of more than 8 million people. These photographs are a personal observation of the basic and simple forms of business that are found throughout the city's streets and alleyways. I say basic because by western business practices, these companies do not appear to have any marketing efforts, target markets, or competitive advantages to differentiate themselves from each other. I feel it is important to document this because as the Chinese business community evolves

and more experienced companies enter the commercial landscape, these homespun companies stand a chance of being thrown to the wayside for a newer generation of box stores, western brands, and high-volume retailers. For this series, I used 120 film because the larger negative renders more detail in the subjects' faces and their surroundings. The unobtrusive nature of a waist-level viewfinder allowed for a more intimate connection with my subject, which I feel is crucial to the success of these portraits.





## Shaanxi Province, China

Glenn Twiggs



China is filled with strange rhythms and juxtapositions. A complex people and a culture on the move; quickly in the city and a bit slower in the countryside yet never standing still. These images look at the Chinese vernacular in the city of Xi'an and the surrounding villages in Shaanxi Province at the turn of the 21st century. They open a dialog of separation and connectedness in Chinese society and provide a brief glimpse into the character of Chinese people.





## Portraits of Xi'an

Jordan Crosby

The goal behind Portraits of Xi'an was to capture the rawness of life through direct and detailed portraits, in hopes of presenting an honest representation of a country's people. My intent in photographing these individuals was to allow them to stay in their natural environment, without any type of manipulation. Each face, hand, wrinkle, and body, might it be simple or complex, tells a distinct story. My hope is that, through these photos, the beauty that I find so evident in the people of Xi'an, China is accurately conveyed.





## Hu Village, Shaanxi Province, China

**Chelsea Coogler**

These photographs were taken during the summer of 2007 in Xi'An, China. While there, I discovered markets and streets unlike those I have ever seen before in America. I felt the need to document the vibrant character of these small streets, villages, and alleys as anonymously as

possible so that I wasn't obtrusive to the daily business I was trying to record. Using a camera affixed with a wide-angle lens, I was able to encompass the entire scene and not have to omit details that help to place the viewer in the picture.





## View from Behind

Angelica Martinez

View from Behind are photographs meant to be a representation of Xi'an and surrounding areas; portraying the workers, children, and objects that breathe life into the city. Use of light and space were considered as well as keeping the angles simple and direct, the intent being having the images speak for themselves. I created diptychs by pairing two photos that I found had similar content, lighting, space, color, image and or mood. The photographs

themselves are a journey in pairs and meant to be interpreted as such. The series by containing the content listed above flows allowing the viewer to enjoy each image as an individual set or view them as a whole.





## The Diligent Worker

Sarah Elsey

Often we use photographs to remember special events in our lives; things that we never want to forget. Chinese life is interesting and challenging. From what I have witnessed in my month long visit to China, many Chinese children develop a strict work ethic at a young age and continue to work hard far past the prime of their lives in order to be successful in their society. This series of diptychs and triptychs were taken in the city of Xi'an, China and nearby

surrounding villages. In these images, people young and old, are working hard at what they do. Whether studying English in primary school, preparing for the many college exams needed to get a successful job, working as a wheat farmer, or crouching down and fixing a car for hours, the Chinese population, that I have witnessed, works hard for their earnings.

Recommending Faculty: **Joseph Vitone, MFA**  
More on Photo Document: Xi'an China at [faculty.stedwards.edu/josephv/china/](http://faculty.stedwards.edu/josephv/china/)



**“You Can Check Out Anytime You Like, But You Can Never Leave”**

**My Study Abroad Experience in Chile and Adventures on Easter Island**

**Austin Gunter**

*I studied abroad in Chile for the second semester of my sophomore year at St. Edward's. Being true to the semester abroad experience I did plenty of traveling during my five months in the Southern Hemisphere. I saw much of Chile, saw Buenos Aires, Argentina as well as spending a week on Easter Island. That tiny sub-tropical island located 3000 miles West of Chile in the middle of the Pacific Ocean spoke to me the most out of my experiences in Latin America. I was left*

*not only with indelible images and memories, but also a burning desire to return to the island.*

*Going to Easter Island was the last thing that I did while I was in Chile. Classes had let out the week before and many of my fellow students were boarding planes back to the United States. I had two more weeks left to travel. One of those I was going to spend on a remote sub-tropical island located somewhere in the Pacific Ocean.*



**Moai at Easter Island:**

Photo by Stewart Jarmon

Study Abroad Photo Contest 2006



**Moai Line:**

The Moai of Ahu Tongariki. With 15 statues, this is the largest collection of Moai on the island.

Photo by the author



My flight left at eight in the morning and with the two-hour time change I arrived on the island at noon. As the plane began to descend we could see the tiny island out the plane's windows as it sprung up out of the water. The LAN Chile plane landed on the 4.5-kilometer runway, which also doubles as a backup-landing zone for the US space shuttle, turned around, and taxied back to the tiny airport as I sat staring out my window at the island. Exiting the airplane, we descended down to the asphalt using a flight of stairs on wheels that I had only seen in old pictures. Inside the tiny airport people from the inn where I had reservations were waiting for me with a sign saying "Austin."

I rode in the inn's van with my fellow travelers who would also stay there. No one was from the same country, so everyone was speaking a mixture of Spanish, French and English to discuss where we all came from, where we were headed next and how brilliant it was to be on Easter Island. I had been waiting for this trip the entire five months in Chile. This tiny island located thousands of miles from the mainland was the climax of my travels. Santiago, Chile had not met my expectations as a study abroad location. I can best describe it as coming to a city like Houston for a brief period of time when a more interesting and culturally diverse city like Austin is just down the road. Easter Island promised to provide all the excitement and novelty where the polluted city of Santiago had fallen short. I made reservations months in advance through a travel agent that my buddy Claudio worked for in Santiago. The travel agent set me up with a plane ticket, a room at an inn as well as 3 full-day tours of the island. I would be spending 5 days on the island in total.

We arrived at the inn and I was shown to my room that had multiple beds and a bathroom with a shower. I was taken aback and asked if I had the entire room to myself. The room was a huge improvement over the hostels I had spent nights in where my fellow travelers and I had shared everything from bunk beds to bathrooms. It was indeed my room for the same price as a crowded hostel so I spread out and settled in.

Heading back to the desk to sign the register the man who had driven me from the airport asked me how I was going to be paying. I told him that I had reservations and that everything ought to be covered. He checked the computer and told me that yes, I had had reservations and everything had been paid for until the day before when my reservations had been cancelled. I'm to this day not sure exactly what had happened but my reservations had indeed been cancelled for the inn as well as for my tours, but my money had not been refunded. I had a voucher

with me that had my reservations on it as well as the name of the inn I was supposed to stay at. As I showed the innkeeper the voucher he looked at the name of the inn and told me it didn't exist. Easter Island is small enough that everyone knows everyone else and whether or not an establishment exists or not. Apparently I had made reservations at an imaginary inn on Easter Island.

I was upset. I hadn't eaten since early in the morning before my five-hour flight across the Pacific, so I told the innkeeper that we could figure it out after I got some food. I can't think unless I have food in my stomach. I headed next door to a little restaurant with a patio for some freshly caught fish. The meal cost me about \$10. I began to do the math on what exactly I would be able to afford to do on the island with the money I had brought with me. Given \$10 a night for the inn and about \$10 a meal I had exactly enough money to sleep and eat every day, but do nothing else. The town of Hanga Roa was situated on one side of the island while some of the main attractions like the statues of the Moai and the extinct volcanoes were spread out all over its 63 square miles. It would cost money that I didn't have to see most of the island outside of the town. After waiting for months I had finally reached Easter Island, but I didn't have the money to see it. Even renting a small motorcycle to drive myself across the island was out of the question. All I could do was walk around town and catch the nearby sights.

The thought of spending five days on the island, but not seeing anything was tortuous. I had made a 3000-mile flight across the Pacific Ocean, but didn't have the coin to explore the island. I kept thinking that I was stranded on that incredible island full of history without a means with which to experience it. I went to an Internet café and sent e-mails to my parents telling them of my situation. I asked for prayers that things would turn out ok and that my money or my reservations would be recovered. By this time it was too late to call back to Santiago and talk to my travel agent, so I walked around and saw as much of the town and the island as I could before heading back for some dinner and to sleep. I paid my \$10 at the inn to sleep that night and fell on my bed, closing my eyes in the hopes that tomorrow would see my situation sorted out.

My inn provided a delicious breakfast for us in the mornings and I enjoyed fresh fruit from the island and talked with a middle-aged couple from France and Belgium, respectively, traveling together. The "Santa Mاما," the matron of the hotel, came to me as I finished eating with a person who she said might be able to help me figure out what had happened with my money and my reservations. She presented me with a transsexual named

Lupe on a little Yamaha scooter and told me to go with "her."

I had been on Easter Island for no more than 24 hours and I had lost a few hundred dollars in my lodgings and tours and now I was going in search of them on the back of a scooter with a transsexual named Lupe. It was quite a situation. All this was happening 3000 miles from the nearest continent in a language I was still learning. The comical nature of the situation did not escape me as I clung to the back of the bike as Lupe drove me around town.

It seemed to me later that a tiny island community of no more than 2000 people was a strange place to find a transsexual. It seemed more logical that a big city would be a more accepting place for anyone with a controversial lifestyle. More people would mean more people of the same sort. However, I learned on the island that a small community like that on Easter Island demands cohesion among its members. In order for a small, extremely isolated community like that to thrive, every member must be accepted to prevent destabilizing conflict. Lupe ran a clothing boutique on the island and had evidently found her niche in the community. As she took me around the island all the people we interacted with treated her with deference and respect. Having such a unique guide did indeed add to the rare nature of my experience.

After an hour of asking around we finally ended up at the bureau of tourism for the island. The people at the bureau were very kind. They let me use their phone to call Santiago for free. Turns out that despite being 3000 miles from Santiago, the phone call was a local one. Even though I was in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, the rest of the world was no less accessible to me than it was in Santiago. The Chilean Government governs Easter Island so my free phone call was courtesy of the Chilean government shrinking the globe in order to maintain ties with Easter Island.

I got my travel agent on the phone and asked him what on earth had gone wrong with my reservations. We proceeded to negotiate the situation completely in Spanish as I sat in the bureau looking out the windows at the ocean. My travel agent went to make a phone call on his cell phone while I was still on the line. He called another man on the island who suddenly showed up at the door to the bureau asking if my name was Austin. I greeted him and he introduced himself as Poncho and told me that he ran a tour company and managed the cell phone service on the island. He also told me that he'd pay for my lodging for the rest of my time on the island as well as a few tours for me from his company and that my travel agent





would pay him back. He drove me around the island for a bit, telling me about himself and the island as we stopped to reserve some tours and then to inform my inn of the new arrangements.

I began to feel a serious sense of relief that things were going to work out fine. Poncho then tells me about his yacht. In addition to providing cell phone service and running a tour agency he also made money on the side taking some of the more wealthy travelers on yacht tours around the island. He told me he was planning to go out that afternoon if the wind stayed calm. Yachting is unpleasant with high winds and choppy waters.

He asked me if I wanted to go on the yacht with him, explaining that since my travel agent had messed up and we more or less had an open line of credit that Poncho would let my travel agent foot the bill for the yacht tour. Needless to say, I accepted.

My spirits raised, I went to treat myself to a big lunch and a beer before heading for the harbor and my yacht tour of Easter Island. As I made my way towards the harbor, which was on the other side of the town, I passed by the boutique that my new friend Lupe owned. She insisted on giving me a ride out to the harbor on the motorcycle despite my statement that I was fine walking. I continued walking and she followed persistently. I couldn't decide whether this was simply the kindness of a small community or something else. I finally relented and let her give me a ride the final quarter mile to the harbor.

That afternoon Poncho had also invited an American girl named Sam, who was volunteering as an

English teacher on the island, to enjoy a yacht tour. As we sailed down the West side of the island and around its Southern tip, Sam told me about the island's history, and I told her some of the stories about my experiences in Chile so far. It was a great afternoon to balance out the events of the day before. Sam and I became immediate friends and hung out together the rest of my time on the island.

I went on my tours during the day while Sam was at school. At the end of the day I would go hang out with her host family for a snack and wait for her to return from

school. It blew my mind that I had met someone who was actually teaching English on the island. I remembered that one of my first thoughts as I walked off the plane upon arriving was that I could teach English on the island as an excuse to come back. I would have had no idea how to go about making that happen had my reservations not been lost and Poncho not come to my rescue with replacement reservations and the yacht ride where Sam and I met. She gave me the details of how I can return to the island and teach English when I graduate from St. Edward's. I am constantly amazed at how God turns the bad into good. My first day on Easter Island was the polar opposite of the rest of my time on the island. I went from abject misery and disappointment one day and then my spirits were raised to a blissful level by the events of the next day.

The only slightly mediocre part of my trip was the tours. After my second day of touring the island with a group of uninspiring tourists I realized that I had no desire to see Easter Island from the inside of a bus all day long when I could be knee deep in the culture of the island with Sam and her friends. As the tour bus dropped me off at my inn that evening I told my tour guide not to pick me up the next morning for my final tour. I had other plans to see the island. Sam and I rented a motorcycle and I drove us all over the island on my final day. We got on the road about 7:30 and she gave me a personal tour from over my left shoulder until I had to get back to the airport at 12:00. She showed me where the giant sea turtles swim close to the town. You can actually scuba dive with them and sometimes ride one! Sam also showed me the secluded beach where the locals would picnic in the spring under the shadow of the Moai. This was one of the best days of my life, driving along the coastal road of Easter Island in the middle of the Pacific with a beautiful girl seated close behind me.

In retrospect it was the intangible qualities of the unique location that made the experience of traveling to Easter Island great for me. I cannot point out one thing that made the trip great. The statues of the Moai are amazing, it was great to be with a fellow American who knew the island so well, but the things that most affected me aren't things that words express. The island has a quality that seeps into the soul and plants seeds that flourish in your memory, drawing your thoughts back to the island long after leaving. My positive experiences were certainly bolstered in contrast to my terrible first day, but it goes beyond that. Sam put it to me in terms of a pop song, explaining that Easter Island is like "Hotel California" by The Eagles: "you can checkout any time you like, but you never leave."

After driving from one side of the island to the other

I dreaded arriving at the airport to catch my flight back to Santiago. When we got to the airport I parked the motorcycle and Sam dashed off mysteriously and came back with a necklace from the gift shop. It was made from shark vertebrae and black wooden beads. As she put it around my neck she told me, "This will always bring you back to the island."

#### Originally Written For:

Study Abroad Chile, Fall 2007

Recommending Faculty: Erin Ray

#### Office of International Education

The Office of International Education coordinates international programming and advises students on a variety of study abroad opportunities in locations around the world. Students from all majors are encouraged to study abroad to broaden their language skills, intercultural communication skills and understanding of global issues. Students may apply some or all of their financial aid package to the cost of a study abroad program and scholarships for study abroad do exist.

For additional information on study abroad opportunities, contact the Office of International Education: Moody Hall, Room 118 | 512.428.1051  
[www.stedwards.edu/apss/international/](http://www.stedwards.edu/apss/international/)



#### Single Moai:

Moai just outside of the main town of Hanga Roa with replica eyes

Photo by the author

# EL SALVADOR AND TRANSNATIONAL GANGS

MELISSA AUFMUTH



In the 1990's, there were many deportations of illegal immigrants back to El Salvador. Many of those deported were gang members who brought along with them to El Salvador the concept of U.S. "gang culture". These deportations have played a key role in the growth of transnational gangs circulating in the United States, El Salvador, and the surrounding countries.

The United States plays an important role in many areas of Latin America. El Salvador, for instance, is home to many American franchises such as McDonald's, KFC, Wendy's, and Subway. San Salvador, the capital city, is also home to the largest American shopping center in Central America. American franchises arguably boost the Salvadorian economy, but not all U.S. exports to El Salvador have been beneficial.

In the 1990's, there were many deportations of illegal immigrants back to El Salvador. Many of those deported were gang members who brought along with them to El Salvador the concept of U.S. "gang culture" (Poor Neighbours 1). These deportations have played a key role in the growth of transnational gangs circulating in the United States, El Salvador, and the surrounding countries.

This article addresses issues of transnational migration, the exportation of U.S. "gang culture" to Central America, and the transnational networks and transnational identities that have resulted from deportations of people back to El Salvador. I also raise questions about who is responsible for addressing the transnational problems that have emerged from this situation. In order to better understand the contemporary gang situation in El Salvador and the United States, it is important, first, to examine the history on this particular topic.

During the 1980's, many Salvadorians and their children fled to the United States because of the civil war back home. As many as 300,000 Salvadorians settled in Los Angeles, California during this period (Johnson 2). Very few of these immigrants had legal status; many were not highly educated, and they were living in some of the roughest areas of Los Angeles. Immigrant children discovered that by joining gangs in the Los Angeles area, they could protect themselves in these rough neighborhoods (Johnson 2). One youth gang expert notes, "another risk factor predisposing new Central American im-

migrants to gang affiliation was their exposure to and participation in violence during the brutal conflicts in their home countries" (Johnson 3). These factors among others led many Salvadorians to seek membership and acceptance in gangs in Los Angeles and surrounding areas.

The two major rival gangs that started in the United States are referred to as the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), and the "18th Street" gang (also known as M-18 or Eighteen) (Ribando 2). Mexican immigrants started the gang Eighteen in the late 1960's, and it was the first Hispanic gang to accept individuals from all races. Salvadorian immigrants created MS-13 in the 1980's after they fled to the United States during the civil war.

Ten years later in the early 1990's, President Bill Clinton began deporting back to El Salvador many refugees and gang members who had made their home here in the U.S. illegally (Pollack 1). Some argue that deporting undocumented immigrants, many with criminal convictions, back to El Salvador escalated the gang problem in Central America.

Considered transnational gangs, the MS-13 and M-18 are active in both the United States and Central America (Johnson 2). Due to the span of territory they cover, both gangs have countless members. According to the National Council on Public Security, El Salvador currently estimates MS-13 has 22,000 members. M-18 has around 12,000 members. Another 5,000 members belong to other gangs in El Salvador (Sibaja 3).

International membership and notions of U.S. "gang culture" have influenced fashion trends in El Salvador. This includes variations of baggy clothes, chains, and baseball caps, music styles including hip-hop and Latino rap, hand signals, tattoos, English words, and graffiti (Poor Neighbours 1). To the young population in El Salvador, these gang members have "symbolic

capital" or prestige, which derives from living in the U.S., receiving better education, and knowing the English language or at least a few words.

Aside from fashion appeal, media and technology have become major tools that the gangs use in their favor. Many newspapers and magazines in El Salvador are constantly showcasing the violence and criminal acts committed by gangs (Sibaja 3). This media attention builds status for the gang members and encourages recruitment. In addition, MS-13 and M-18 are now using the Internet as a communication tool. Oscar Alvarez, Minister of Security, said, "They communicate on the Internet, they run the gangs like a business." Most of these skills were acquired from their experience in the U.S. and derive from the impact of globalization.

Globalization and immigration greatly influence and connect goods, services, and people across borders. Since many gang members still have their ties in the United States, they are able to go back and forth through illegal routes, ultimately forming a continuous cycle of migration between the two regions, building stronger relationships, and encouraging drug trafficking, violence, and kidnapping. Beyond the negative consequences, this transnational setting extends a unique opportunity to examine new national and emerging global identities.

Do gang members identify more with U.S. or with Salvadorian culture, or both? This is a hard question to answer but many gang members and deportees are unprepared to return home because they are unfamiliar with El Salvador's language and culture. Many Salvadorians in the 1990's did not even know their native Spanish language when they returned, because most of them fled to the U.S. at a young age with or without their parents. Sociologist Elana Zilberg comments that she heard one gang member say that he felt like he had been sent to "Mars," upon returning to El Salvador because it was so



very different from what he was familiar with in the States (Johnson 6). Transnational identities and ambiguity regarding a place to call home are significant influences on the youth of El Salvador.

Increased gang membership is partly linked to the degree of inequality between the rich and poor, especially among young Salvadorians. A majority of youths in El Salvador do not even have their basic needs such as adequate water sources, food, electricity, and education met. Therefore, many children and teenagers see gang members who have lived in the U.S. as leaders and role models. And they think their lives will improve by joining the MS-13, M-18, or other local gangs.

Gang life was and still is tempting for struggling youths. Those who join M-18 get the chance to smoke as much marijuana as they want, develop a sense of identity by tattooing the number 18 all over their bodies, and build strong friendships. The gang also gives them a set of strict codes and rules to live by. This seems appealing to the youth especially when they lack a strong family connection.

Gangs give the youths a sense of belonging. One 17-year old gang member said, “When I needed my mother she wasn’t there for me, but the gang always will be. They are my family and give me the love of a family.” He also commented, “I love my gang much more than my mother” (Pollack 2). If youths do not have an alternative, they will continue to join gangs that they will consider to be their family and the center of their lives.

The transnational gangs MS-13 and M-18 were produced in the U.S., gang members were then deported back to El Salvador, and now gangs are an even greater problem in El Salvador. Both the U.S. and El Salvador have been working together to implement programs, deportation policies, and alternatives to stop the cycle of violence. Nonetheless, the situation raises questions as to who should take responsibility for these transnational problems.

In the 1990’s, municipal policies were established in the U.S. to deal with convicted criminals, jail time, and deportations. The Los Angeles Police department (LAPD) worked together with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) dealing with immigrants identified as career criminals (Johnson 3). Before 1996, individuals could be deported back to their home country if their jail sentence was five years or longer. The offenses could range from theft, alien smuggling, and fraud,

which all qualified as an “aggravated felony” (Johnson 3). This policy along with the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRAIRA) affected non U.S. citizen Central American gang members, who had frequent contacts with the criminal justice system (Johnson 3). While focusing on gang suppression efforts in the U.S., both policies increased the number of potential gang deportees and contributed to the rise in gang related violence in Central America. In 2005, El Salvador received 1,900 deported gang members or associates (Johnson 6).

A recent study by the UNDP calculated that the violence in El Salvador accounts for the loss of about U.S. \$1.7 billion annually, which is roughly 11.5% of their gross domestic product

A few gang members have sought to get out of this cycle of violence and get a job once they arrive in El Salvador. However, they often confront negative stereotyping usually based on their appearance. Visible tattoos, especially with the markings of MS-13 or 18 show that they are or once were related to a gang. At one point when gang activity was very high in Central America, there was a fine for anyone who showed a visible gang related tattoo.

Throughout the years, in response to the arrivals of deportees, El Salvador and surrounding countries have been trying to balance rehabilitation, enforcement, and prevention measures. In 2003, the Salvadorian government introduced a plan to target youth and gang violence with what is known as Mano Dura (Firm Hand). This plan helped to criminalize gang affiliation with a prison sentence of six to twelve years (Johnson 5). The program had mixed results. Some officials thought this approach would only curb violent crime, not stop it. Since then, the homicide rates in El Salvador continue to grow and are currently at 55 per 100,000 residents, which is five times the rate the World Health Organization considers to be a health epidemic (Tobar 3). Government sponsored initiatives are limited, but they continue to reassess the situation and brainstorm for better plans to deal with the gang problem. In

addition, many non-governmental organizations have stepped in to help prevent this violence from reoccurring.

Homies Unidos was founded in El Salvador but there is also a branch in Los Angeles. This program focuses on prevention and rehabilitation by offering after-school programs for at-risk youths. They also specialize in alternative education methods, leadership development, and tattoo removal (Johnson 7). Other programs have stepped in, too, such as the Aid to Artisans program, Proyecto MOJE (Movement of Young Discoverers) (Pollack 11). This program works towards eliminating gang rivalries and they also provide technical job training. Examples include pottery-making, carpentry, welding, and screen-printing (Pollack 11). They also provide self-esteem and personal development workshops to the participating gang members. With the help of local and international governments and NGO’s, today over 300 gang members have been reintegrated into society (Sibaja 12).

Gang related activity has had a major impact on society and on the economy as well. For a developing nation like El Salvador, violence can affect many things locally, but also at the international level with trade and investment. A recent study by the UNDP calculated that the violence in El Salvador accounts for the loss of about U.S. \$1.7 billion annually, which is roughly 11.5% of their gross domestic product (GDP) (Sibaja 5).

Violence continues to have a major impact on the economy and it is a major concern for some Salvadorian officials and citizens. Due to gang-related violence, state and citizen relationships are changing. Some citizens live in fear of gang activity. The tourism industry is affected. Security has become a priority. Almost 41% of all Salvadorian businesses say that they have been victims of gang related violence (Sibaja 5). Gangs mostly affect small businesses, but large and international firms have also been victims. This gang activity has promoted security companies in El Salvador, and many companies have active guards or cameras watching for anything suspicious at any given time. Gang violence has prompted some Salvadorians

to leave in search of a more stable environment, influencing new waves of legal and illegal migration. Others have opted to stay and prosper in their home country—an El Salvador that is very different today than what they knew only a couple of decades ago.

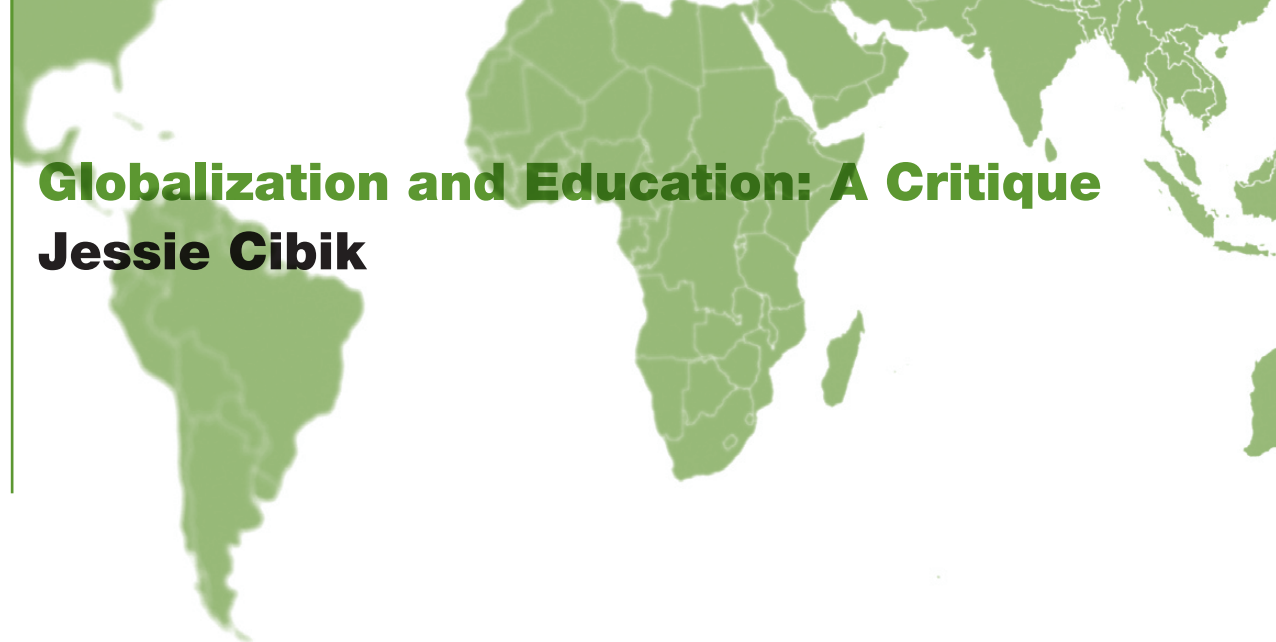
The cycle of violence caused by these transnational gangs is an international concern. It raises important social questions for the 21st century such as the youths’ role in society, citizen security, immigration, globalization, and the impact of U.S. “gang culture” in El Salvador. It seems that the United States and El Salvador should work together toward ending the cycle of violence and decreasing the presence of transnational gangs worldwide.

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Recommending Faculty: Dr. Michelle Wibbelsman



# Globalization and Education: A Critique

Jessie Cibik

We only know what we are taught; and more and more we are only being taught what the world's leaders collectively want us to know. The sense of pride derived from regional skills and education seems `non-existent in comparison to knowledge based on international trade and world relations. I understand the importance of educating students around the world on the same "level" but I cannot seem to grasp the benefit in a lack of diversity. After all, the world was built on different skills from diverse regions. I fear that the only thing that will come out of a more globalized, standardized education is an increase in ignorance due to the fact that students are not given the option to know anything beyond basic, specified facts. It seems as if the world is now being given one combined and simple curriculum,

all technologically based, in hopes of giving people job opportunities and limiting the physical and ideological borders around the world. Globalization undoubtedly has beneficial characteristics. We can grow from interacting with other nations, and trade is necessary for capitalism to thrive. However, a borderless world risks becoming a world without diversity and without appreciation for regional identities. There is much to be gained still from education that is more regionally based; education that does not rob a society of its skills, its customs or its traditional knowledge. For how can we embrace our unique cultures if no one remembers the history?

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## Re: Globalization

Globalization is often portrayed as being inevitable and unstoppable. But this implies that people have no real free will in their choices but are instead following a set pattern. These ideals help to convince the public to go along without questioning or resisting the flow.

Globalization benefits everyone. Or does it? As the collapse of Enron demonstrates, it becomes clear that the people hurt the most by something going wrong will be the workers. A large portion of the American work force earns less than \$10 an hour, and people work 160 hours more than they did in 1973.

Is what's good for America good for the world? The gap between the industrialized countries and those that haven't the fortune to be industrialized is widening faster than it should be. The assets of the three richest people are worth more than those of over 600 million people in Third World countries.

**Nick Oswald**

**Originally Written For:**  
CULF 3330 History and Evolution of Global Processes  
Fall 2007  
Recommending Faculty: Dr. Jennifer Dornan



# Thoughts on Globalization

## Veronica Villa

The term globalization has come to have many different meanings, some of which have been points of contention among academics. It seems natural to question the confusion and lack of consensus especially since I consider myself to be quite naive when it comes to being informed about such issues. It would be much easier to be handed a straightforward text-book definition of globalization, however this desire to simplify and contain such a concept is exactly what Manfred Steger, author of *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction* and Michel-Rolph Trouillot, author of *Global Transformations: Anthropology and the Modern World* largely discourage for a variety of reasons. For one, Steger points out that a mistake committed too frequently is the tendency to limit the scope of the concept of globalization to include typically just one aspect of it, such as the “emerging global economic system,” while altogether ignoring the fact that the best framework to think of globalization is that of a “multidimensional set of social processes” that “reach deeply into the economic, political, cultural, technological, and ecological dimensions of contemporary social life.”

Steger takes us step by step through the process of formulating a more correct, comprehensive definition of globalization and in doing so he outlines the social processes that constitute its essence. Accordingly, there are four characteristics of globalization: 1) It involves the “creation of new and the multiplication of existing social networks and activities that increasingly overcome traditional political, economic, cultural, and geographical boundaries;” 2) It implies the “expansions and the stretching of social relations, activities, and

interdependencies;” 3) It comprises the “intensification and acceleration of social exchanges and activities;” and 4) These processes of globalization influence human consciousness, meaning that global processes affect the way in which people interact in the world.

These distinctions bring us to yet another point of dispute and yield the question of whether or not globalization is truly a novel phenomenon. Both Steger and Trouillot are in agree-

ment that globalization is far from being a recent transformation. Clearly the characteristics of globalization that have been outlined are features that can be attributed to several different time periods in our planet’s history and, in fact, can be traced as far back as the prehistoric period, even if then it was limited. Steger notes that globalization is “as old as humanity itself.” In contrast, Trouillot draws attention to what he refers to as the “first moment of globality” which is demarcated by “the rise of the West, the conquest of the Americas, plantation slavery, the Industrial Revolution, and the population flows of the nineteenth century.” Looking closely at how globalization as a concept has itself transformed throughout history, an important theme that comes to the surface is that globalization has involved all major regions and cultures of our world. Nonetheless, we should not ignore the reality that to an extent globalization is geographically limited; that it is an uneven process; and that in many ways it is linked to inequality. With this in mind, Trouillot draws our attention to the need to critically analyze the supposed concentration of movement around the North Atlantic regions, as well as the time periods in which this occurred. In particular, he details the fact that mass migration was in existence long before the 20th century. Some key examples and demographic movements include the 12 million Africans who were transported as slaves to the New World between the 16th and the 19th centuries to fuel colonial plantation economies, or the 300,000 Chinese that were transplanted to Cuba, Peru, and Mexico. It is most certain that large population movements such as these transformed both host and home societies and cultures, and that they illustrate what Steger claims is the essence of globalization, which is that it is about shifting forms of human contact.

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# Contributor Biographies

**JANE ADLOPH** is very interested in the ethics of environmental and social sustainability. She believes in finding just, non-governmental solutions to these problems, and plans to pursue such research in the future.

**WHITNEY ANDERSON** is graduating in the spring of 2008 with a major in International Relations. She plans to attend law school in fall of 2009. She originally took an interest in micro-credit because of her work with the SEUganda Project and her trip to Uganda in the summer of 2006.

**MELISSA AUFMUTH** graduated in May 2007 with a Marketing degree from St. Edward's University. She has always had a passion for Latin American culture.

**SARAH BIGGERSTAFF** is a junior Finance major and Spanish minor at St. Edward's University. The film *God Grew Tired of Us* inspired her to attend John Bul Dau's live appearance at St. Edward's University and to continue learning about Bul Dau's cause and the plight of the Sudanese people.

**KAYLEIGH BRADLEY** is originally from Boerne, Texas. She is currently a junior majoring in Psychology at St. Edward's University. Her future plans include pursuing a graduate degree in School Psychology. She is interested in the ways in which school environments, students, and the learning process as a whole are changing as a result of global shifts.

**ANDRES BU-SOTO** is from Tegucigalpa, Honduras and currently studying at St. Edwards University. He comes from a conservative family and has only one male sibling. He is very proud to be a student at St Edwards and looks forward to contributing to the University in the best way he can. Since he was a small child Andres has been interested in how society works on a local level. He has gathered much knowledge through his travels about how influences transcend borders and often become part of someone else's culture.

**JESSIE CIBIK** is from Sugar Land, Texas. She is currently a junior at St. Edward's University and plans to graduate with a major in Communications and a minor in Journalism. Writing is her passion and she hopes to create her own travel and architecture magazine when she finishes her education. After graduating she plans to do a great deal of traveling to see what the world has to offer.

**ALEXANDRA CLEAR** is a senior transfer student and a Political Science major specializing in International Politics at St. Edward's University. She is from Houston, Texas, loves to travel, and plans on eventually pursuing a law degree.

**JESSICA COLT** is a senior Psychology student at St. Edward's University. She hopes to work on a more global level in Psychology to help different cultures understand the impact they have on each other and how best to work with and accept their differences.

**CHELSEA COOGLER** traveled to Xi'An China in summer of 2007. While she was there, she discovered markets and streets unlike those she had seen in the United States and felt the need to document the vibrant character of these small streets, villages, and alleys.

**JORDAN CROSBY** is currently a junior at St. Edward's University studying Photocommunications. She is originally from Dallas. She has always had a love for photography and was excited to enter the Photography Program at St. Edward's University. She eventually hopes to pursue Documentary Photography after graduating in May of 2009.

**SARAH ELSEY** traveled to China in summer of 2007. She documented through photography the ways in which many Chinese children develop a strict work ethic at a young age and continue to work hard past the prime of their lives in order to be successful in their societies.

**AUSTIN GUNTER** is an English Writing Major at St. Edward's with designs on going to law school when he graduates in the spring of 2009. He completed a minor in Spanish after studying abroad in Mexico and Chile and hopes that his experiences in Latin America will help him to open a law practice catering to an ever-growing number of Spanish-speaking Americans. He currently resides in community with Brothers of Holy Cross in the Moreau House.

**CHRIS HANTHORN** is currently a junior at St. Edward's University majoring in English Writing and Rhetoric with intentions to obtain a teaching certificate. Following graduation he plans to teach high school level English outside of the state of Texas. In his free time, he enjoys good company, good conversation, listening to dissimilar genres of music, reading, and watching European soccer.

**MATTHEW HINES** is a Junior at St. Edward's University. He is currently working towards a double major in English Writing and Religious Studies, and plans to continue his studies in an international setting after graduating. He spends most of his time writing, playing music, and riding bicycles, but he also likes to take pictures when he can.

**STEWART JARMON** is a native Austinite. He recently graduated from St. Edward's University with a degree in Political Science. When he is not traveling in South America, Stewart enjoys playing tennis and keeping in touch with his political side. He is currently studying for the LSAT and plans to go to Law School in Fall of 2009.

**ANGELICA MARTINEZ** is originally from San Antonio and transferred to St. Edward's University her sophomore year. She has been studying photography at St. Edward's University and hopes to attend graduate school after graduation. Her photographs in this volume of the journal depict what she felt and saw on her trip to China in summer of 2007.

**EMILY MOREHEAD** is a senior at St. Edward's University studying History and Secondary Education. She is currently student teaching at Crockett High School, and recently gave birth to her first daughter, Maya. She will graduate in May 2008.

**JOHNA MORRIS** is a recent graduate from St. Edward's where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication. She is critically concerned about global warming and she hopes that her research can open the minds of young people regarding this issue.

**NICK OSWALD** was born and raised in Austin, Texas. He is currently a Junior at St. Edwards University majoring in Accounting.

**SHELLEY SEALE** is a freelance writer and upcoming graduate of St. Edward's University with a degree in Writing & Cultural Psychology. She has recently finished a book about the 25 million children growing up in India, in orphanages or on the streets, without families of their own. You can read more about India and the book project at [weightofsilence.wordpress.com](http://weightofsilence.wordpress.com).

**TIFFANY SIMPSON** is a junior majoring in Psychology at St. Edward's University, and will be studying abroad in Spain in summer of 2008.

**RYAN SLACK** is originally from Houston, Texas. He is currently a senior in the Photocommunications Department at St. Edward's University. He has been involved in learning about photography since the age of 16.

**CHRISTINA TIMMS** will graduated from St. Edward's University in August 2008 with a Bachelor's degree in Communications. Her family is of many different cultural backgrounds and her interest has always been in learning about different cultures. The challenge of acceptance and communication across cultural differences has always been of great importance to her.

**MEGAN THOMAS** is from McKinney, Texas. She is currently a senior at St. Edward's University and will be graduating with a degree in International Relations in May 2008. Foreign events and affairs have always interested her and she hopes to find employment that allows her to analyze international issues particularly in the Western Hemisphere.

**GLENN TWIGGS** is a third year Photocommunications student. His work focuses on documenting people and the places they inhabit. His projects include the landscape of his workplace, runners in the 2007 Austin Marathon, an Austin-based artist / motorcycle mechanic and, most recently, a series on the people of Shaanxi Province in China.

**ISAIAH ULMER** is from El Paso, Texas. He is currently studying International Business and scheduled to graduate in May of 2008. He has a great passion for agriculture, aviation and literature. Upon graduation, he intends to return to the El Paso area and continue his family tradition in farming.

**VERONICA VILLA** is a senior at St. Edward's University majoring in Psychology with a minor in Computer Science. She currently serves as a teaching assistant for an adolescent psychology course. After graduation she plans on giving back to the community with a year of voluntary service work before pursuing a Doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology.

**KATHRYN WALSH** is a senior Accounting major from Buda, Texas. She plans to graduate in May 2008. Her hope is to find a job doing entry-level accounting work for a couple of years, and then return to school to get her Master's degree in Accounting, and eventually a CPA certification.



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Davies-Jackson Scholarship.....	November 12
Council of Independent Colleges.....	November 12
American Graduate Fellowships	
Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships .....	November 14
Truman Scholarships for Public Service .....	November 17
Goldwater Scholarship.....	November 21
David L. Boren Scholarships for Study Abroad .....	January 15
Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarships .....	February 28
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Caroline Morris, director of Fellowships  
carolim@stedwards.edu  
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### 2008–2009 PUBLIC EVENTS

#### UPDATE

America and the World — Political Challenges  
for the Western Hemisphere  
Oct. 19 • 7 p.m. • Jones Auditorium, Ragsdale Center

#### UPDATE

America and the World — Economic Challenges  
for the Western Hemisphere  
Oct. 20 • 7 p.m. • Jones Auditorium, Ragsdale Center

#### UPDATE

Europe — Political, Economic and Social Trends  
in Europe and Their Impact on the Americas  
Feb. 9 • 7 p.m. • Jones Auditorium, Ragsdale Center

#### UPDATE

Asia and the Middle East — Political, Economic and  
Social Trends in South Asia and Their Consequences  
March 2 • 7 p.m. • Jones Auditorium, Ragsdale Center

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### Calendar of Upcoming Campus Events

#### Fall 2008

Oct. 7  
7:00 pm

#### Freshman Studies

##### Keynote Speaker Jeannette Walls

*Recreation and Convocation Center (RCC)*

University Programs presents Jeannette Walls, author of the best-selling memoir *The Glass Castle*, which is a moving account of a nomadic childhood in extreme poverty. Walls describes what it means to be poor, and the obstacles she overcame.

#### Update: America and the World

Oct. 19  
7:00 pm

#### Political Challenges for the Americas

*St. Edward's University*

Oct. 20  
7:00 pm

#### Economic and Social Challenges

*St. Edward's University*

Oct. 20  
7:00 pm

#### Political and Economic Challenges

*Austin Community College*

The Kozmetsky Center for Excellence in Global Finance presents a series of public panels, assemblies and classroom visits on national and international public policy issues affecting the Americas. Experts will discuss global political, economic and social trends, their impact on international relations and poverty reduction. Featuring Ariel Armony, Cynthia Arnson, Philip Brenner, Patrick Breslin, Margaret Crahan, Joseph Eldridge, Patricia Fagan, Jo Marie Griesgraber, Gordon Hanson, Martha Langelan, William Leogrande, Jorge Piñon, Margaret Sarles, Claudio Loser and Elizabeth Vieth. Co-sponsored by the Latin American Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington D.C.

Nov. 12 –  
Nov. 16  
11 am –  
1:30 pm

#### The Global Table: How the World Eats

*St. Edward's University,  
South Congress Market entrance*

Hunger Week is a week-long series of events where students can learn what going hungry really means and how their daily choices impact local, national and global resources. Sponsored by Campus Ministry, each day will focus on a different area of the world.

Nov. 17 –  
Nov. 21

#### International Education Week

The Office of International Education presents opportunities for study abroad.

#### Spring 2009

#### Update: Europe

Feb. 9  
7:00 pm

#### Political, Economic and Social Trends in Europe and their Impact on the Americas

As part of a series of meetings and classroom visits sponsored by the Kozmetsky Center for Excellence in Global Finance, this panel features experts in national and international policy who look at major political, economic and social trends in Europe and their impact on the Americas. Featuring Joel Krieger, Cathie Jo Martin, and George Ross.

#### Update: South Asia and the Middle East

Mar. 2  
7:00 pm

#### Political, Economic and Social Trends in South Asia and their Consequences

*St. Edward's University*

Sponsored by the Kozmetsky Center for Excellence in Global Finance, this panel will focus on major political, economic and social trends in South Asia and their consequences. Featuring Sugata Bose, and Ayesha Jalal.

Apr. 17  
9 am –  
3:00 pm

#### Symposium on Undergraduate Research and Expression (SOURCE)

*The Ragsdale Center:  
Mabee Ballroom and Jones Auditorium*

This symposium showcases the excellent work of St. Edward's students and provides a forum for faculty and student scholarly discussion throughout the university.

St. Edward's University  
3001 South Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78704



**On the Cover:**  
*Life on the Ghats,*  
*Udaipur, India*  
Photo by Shelley Seale  
March 2006

