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Interdisciplinary Critical Perspectives

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DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING AALBORG UNIVERSITY

Research Program 1998 - 2000
Globalization and Social Change
Interdisciplinary Critical Perspectives

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AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (DIR)

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Research Program 1998 - 2000

Globalization and Social Change Interdisciplinary Critical Perspectives

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Part 1

Research Center on Development and International Relations (DIR): Introduction to the Center

DIR is a Center characterized by being interfaculty and transdisciplinary in its research and education. Established in 1982 as the academic group called GUF (Group for Development Research) it expanded in 1995 to initiate the establishing of a Research Center, whose goal was to prepare a common research profile.

Following the establishment of the Research Center an extensive research program was published with the title: **Research Program 1995-1997: Globalization and Social Change - Structures, Systems and Unidisciplinary Research** .

The research period has been marked by, among other events, the impact of the end of the Cold War and the challenge this posed to the study of international development. In this context it is the political and social factors and consequences of the on-going globalization on the local, regional and international levels that constitute DIR's common research denominator.

DIR places emphasis on primary research, in which attempts are made to link different levels in analyzing globalization and the processes of social changes. Concepts and frameworks are established to help understand the interaction between geopolitics and geoeconomics and the socio-political forces at the global, regional and local levels. With the application of theoretical approaches and concepts, the intention is to grasp the dynamics which global development imposes on local societies and the latter's responses. The different projects pave the way for a better comprehension of the conditions for peace and security, crisis and social change in the international political economy as well as at the level of the state and society, including, among other dimensions, technology, the environmental and ecological challenge, gender and ethnicity problems in the civil society.

DIR took the initiative, at the end of 1997, to enlarge the Research Center by inviting researchers not only from the Department of Development and Planning but also from other circles inside and outside Aalborg University, who share the same focus on research.

After a successful seminar in April 1997 with the participation of 12 researchers followed by a number of meetings with new acquaintances, the time had come to evaluate the former research program and establish a new three-year program covering 1998-2000.

In its 3 years existence, the Center has furthermore expanded its activities both in researcher training (PhD level) and teaching (International Specialization Year/Diploma) and initiated a new Master program. On this background an actual need arose for a more formalized and institutionalized cooperation between the associated researchers for the next 3 years. The objective is both to draw on the experience of the economies of scale and to present a critical perspective in research and teaching within development and international relations.

The Center now comprises a membership of 27 committed scholars who have shown the intent to revitalize and strengthen DIR. These scholars' research interests extend to Humanities, Technical and Natural Sciences as well as Social Sciences.

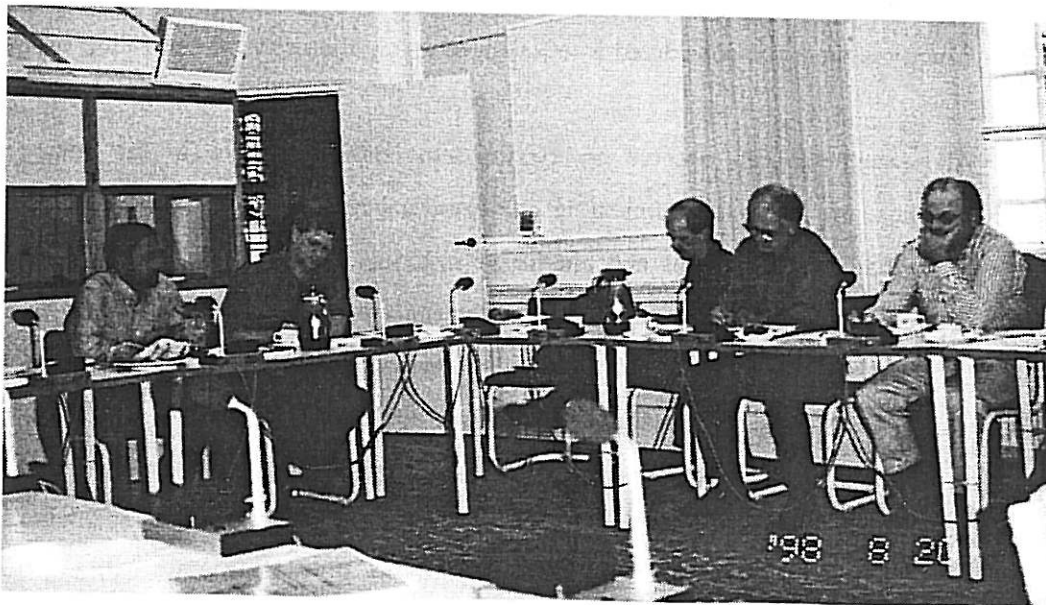
List of Scholars affiliated with DIR:

Name	Position	Affiliation	Research interest and geographical area
Jacques Hersh	Professor	GUF/DDP	Development Theory/International Political Economy
Erik Stubkjær	Professor	Planning/DDP	Understanding of European cadastres/ Global/Eastern Europe
Ellen Brun	Professor	Journal "Salt"/ GUF	Sustainable Development/Feminism/ Globalization
Andrew Jamison	Professor	ITP/DDP	Theory of Science/History and Sociology of Technology/Social Movements/Technology and Culture/Environmental Politics
Susanne Thorbek	Associate Professor	FREIA/DDP	Women's Studies/Post Colonialism/Gender & Urbanization/Southeast Asia
Jens Müller	Associate Professor	ITP/DDP	Technological capacity and infrastructure/Africa
Jorgen Kristiansen	Associate Professor	Planning/ DDP	Transport/Infrastructure/Planning/Africa/Eastern Europe
Feiwei Kupferberg	Associate Professor	GUF/DDP	Sociology/Transformation Theory/Eastern Europe
Ib Jorgensen	Associate Professor	Planning/DDP	Societal aspects of Planning/ Globalization/Europe/Denmark
Bo Vagnby	Associate Professor	Planning/DDP	Urban Redevelopment Planning/Third World Urban and Housing Development
Mona Dahms	Associate Professor	DT/DCT	Telecommunication/Gender/Africa
Pernille Berthelsen	Assistant Professor	ITP/DDP	Technological Capacity/Sustainable Irrigation Systems in Tanzania
Klaus Lindegård	Assistant Professor	ED/DDP	Economics & Environment/ Sustainable development strategies/Central America
Johannes Schmidt	Assistant Professor	GUF/DDP	IPE, Development & Sociology/Political & Economic Development Models/East Asia

Steen Seierup	Assistant Professor	ITP/DDP	International Transfer of Technology & Socio-Economic Relations in Developing Countries
Gorm Winther	External Lecturer	GUF/DDP	Labour Participation/Development Economics/Globalization
Xing Li	Research Fellow	GUF/DDP	China's Transformation/East Asian Studies
Hans Hestvang	Research Fellow	GUF/Kyoto/Japan	Rural development/Burma/Southeast Asia
Henrik Nielsen	Research Fellow	GUF/Danida	Development Aid/Decentralization/South Asia/Africa
Susan Vonsild	Consultant	GUF/Interlink	Globalization/Culture/Southeast Asia/Organisational Development
Pablo Christofanini	Associate Professor	Spanish/DLICT	Culture/Identity/Nationalism/Latin America
Steen Fryba Christensen	PhD Student	Spanish/DLICT	Regionalization/Globalization/Latin America
Claus Thure Hastrup	PhD Student	Spanish/DLICT	Democratization/Nicaragua
Peter Benjamin	PhD Student	DT/DCT	Communication Technology/Africa
Orathai Ard-Am	PhD student	GUF/DDP	Democratization/Participation/Thailand
Annette Kanstrup-Jensen	PhD student	GUF/DDP	Human Resources/Southeast Asia
Touch Seang Tana	PhD student	IVOE/DDP	Fishery Development/Cambodia
Akram Hawas	PhD Student/ research fellow	GUF/DDP	Sociology of development and international relations

Abbreviations:

GUF: Group of Development Researchers; ITP: International Technology Planning; ED: Environment and Development; DDP: Department of Development and Planning; IVOE: International Business Studies; DCT: Department of Communication Technology; DLICS: Department of Language and International Cultural Studies; FREIA: Feminist Research Center; DT: Division of Telecommunications



Discussing the organizational set-up and research program at the first DIR Droninglund Seminar in August-98

Part 2

Background and Purpose of the Research Program - Intellectual Assumptions and Intentions

Background

This research program by the Research Center on Development and International Relations (DIR) on “Globalization and Social Change: Interdisciplinary, Critical Perspectives” is the fruit of collective efforts exerted by the Center to contribute to the understanding of the present evolution of the world system.

Ontologically, the Center considers that all social formations are part of the capitalist system without any visible alternative mode of production at the macro level of society in sight. This does, by no mean, imply that there are no options at other levels. Yet, capitalism has proven to have immense strength and capability, when it comes to the development of productive forces and production relations, and has impacted on all levels of the global economy. Despite this, alternative technical and organizational systems at the micro- and macro levels within national and regional systems suggest embryonic structures related to another mode of production than the one dominated by globalized corporate capitalism.

The first capitalist structures emerged under feudalism. However these organizations' need for free mobility of factors of production, freedom of contracting and markets implied that the capitalist organization could not release its potentials fully under existing conditions; the new structures were not considered as efficient or as an alternative to the ruling order at that time.

At present we can observe embryonic democratic structures in the sphere of economics. These are labelled inefficient despite empirical research suggesting the opposite. There are alternative technologies and alternative organizational forms present within the national and regional economies today suggesting the shape of social formations of the future.

At the level of globalization, the Center does not interpret the dominance of the market into an assumption of homogenization. There are deep structural differences within capitalism. There are varieties of market capitalism including different degrees of state interventionism and differences in welfare systems. In addition, the global stagnation of economic growth and development, the ecological problems, the increased inequality in terms

of income, wealth and power and the systemic crises of the different capitalist social formations 1) increase the need to comprehend scientifically the problems of globalization and 2) necessitate serious efforts in the search for a more efficient and humane system. However, not all research projects within the program will explicitly treat existing structures as well as different forms of organization as a part of the search for alternatives.

In other words, the Center does not adhere to the ideological position that we are living in the best of all possible worlds. The Center does not strive for scientific neutrality, but agrees that value-free research is neither possible nor desirable. DIR is consequently engaged in problem-oriented research with the primary goal of uncovering the mechanisms of malfunctioning arrangements. This implies a concern with disharmony rather than harmony. The Center has been active in achieving a critical perspective in the analysis of contradictory tendencies in the international political economy including the development problematique of the periphery as well as the sources of potential contradictions between core-nations. This perspective is elaborated on in the next part.



Contributing to the public debate by staff and students has a high priority

Part 3

Globalization and Social Change - Interdisciplinary, Critical Perspectives: Introduction to the Research Program

This three-year research program consists of three major objectives: A theoretical contribution, searching for an alternative, and an empirical application.

The **first** objective will be accomplished by developing an in-depth theoretical analysis aiming at providing a comprehensive understanding of the concept of globalization. This will be done by exploring the contradictions between globalization and regionalization, weakening or strengthening unequal state capacities versus international governance and responses from civil society actors. The aim is to explore the contemporary debates on globalization and to propose a new framework within a critical sociological and international political economy perspective. The analytical inspiration is based on the heuristic value of the following approaches within social sciences.

Historical sociology's emphasis on the importance of the state needs to be expanded to include the transnational practices at the economic, political and cultural-ideological levels constituting what has been called "sociological totality." A related tradition is the "sociology of the global system" which has contributed to combine development theory and international political economy into a synthesis in the conceptualization of the capitalist world system. For international political economy to contribute to the analysis of globalization, the break-down of traditional borderlines between the international and the domestic levels as well as between politics and economics has opened the possibility for important linkages. As globalization is not without contradictory tendencies, "transnational historical materialism" incorporating the perspective of the philosophy of praxis, encourages the study of actors and historic blocs in both the forces of promoting and the forces of resisting globalization at the international and domestic levels.

The **second** objective will for some of the research projects undertaken by members of the Center implicate theoretical and empirical research of alternative technologies and alternative organizational forms and institutions that do exist within regional and national systems. The search for a more efficient and humane system than existing market capitalist and etatist systems suggests a global model of transformation towards a more just and participatory economic system. The general theory of labor-managed market economies

describes those two types of transformation towards participatory and labor-managed systems. The first transition comes from “progressive forces” within etatist social settings, today this involves both socialist economies (China, Vietnam, Korea and Cuba) as well as transformation economies (former European socialist economies). Within these systems the decentralization and privatization processes in some cases implicate employee takeovers of hitherto state owned assets; it implicates the establishment of co-operatives and the lease of nationalized assets to small private entrepreneurs and dismantling central planning; it may also imply an increase in employee participation in decision making. A transition from “liberal and conservative forces” within the different market capitalist systems points in the same direction. The knowledge economy suggests that creativity and ideas among employees are the most powerful and distinctive assets to the firm of today. However, knowledge belongs to people, who cannot be owned by firms. This puts employee ownership and participatory decision making on the agenda as the most efficient bridge between a firm’s financial assets and its stock of human capital. These years we do see employee stock ownership plans, other forms of employee ownership, small partnerships, co-op’s, non-profit organizations and all channel organizational networks within traditional firms as new and alternative forms of ownership and organization suggesting a potential path toward a more diversified, just and democratic economy. In this sense we may globally talk about a new kind of convergence towards more efficient, democratic and humane social and economic systems?

The **third** objective will be fulfilled by applying the general theoretical frame of reference and taking the alternative into consideration at the meso-level to the following separate but interlinked seven clusters (see also part 5 for more details):

General Methodology and Interdisciplinarity

What is considered today as the various “disciplines” in the social sciences were all created, or at least institutionalized, in the second half of the nineteenth century as a “buffer” between humanities and exact sciences. The study of the world was divided into three assertedly autonomous arenas of activities: the economic, the political and the socio-cultural. Economics was thought to be centered around the market and politics around the state. The socio-cultural sphere, consequently, included everything that did not fall under the first two rubrics and in this sense was considered a residual category.

After WW II, the institutionalized separation of the social science “disciplines” created growing unease. One reaction was the call for multidisciplinary or interdisciplinarity. The concept reflected a need to consider intellectual problems through the combined efforts of various scholars approaching the problem from the perspective of different disciplines. This is an idea whose time has come, and seems to be more and more in vogue. The second concept was area-studies which involved the multidisciplinary study of a “region” of the world with emphasis on linguistic knowledge.

Obviously, these developments had the effect of questioning the sharp compartmentalization of social sciences that had seemed to be a solid reality for a century. But this was done within the framework of multi- or inter-disciplinarity; and this rubric, while synthesizing the endeavour in spirit, reinforced in fact the delineation of the different so-called disciplines. For if one is called upon to bring together many disciplines, one is led to believe that each discipline has something different to say. In this manner, the disciplinary distinctions were relegitimized. The consequence has been a sort of massive drifting whereby more and more scholars feel dismay at the state of the social and other sciences but very little appears to be done collectively to change the situation.

Today, there is no longer a basic consensus. The fact that critics of the old scheme have been more effective in their negation than in proposing a viable alternative epistemology and methodology for a reorganized single discipline reflects the need for a new conceptualization and approach. Critical research rests on the basic assumption that what is needed is somehow to create a critical architecture that includes and expands the problematiques and methodologies of the various separate disciplines. This construct constitutes an extension and a refocusing of social theory aiming to transcend the limitation of the conditions of its own maturation during the so-called classical period of the disciplines.

Attempting to resolve this challenge is far from an easy task. The guiding principle of the various research areas of our program take globalization and social change as the heuristic inspiration as the dynamics of transformation affects all levels of human activities and social relations.

The focus of this research program is divided into seven main research clusters, all belonging to the area of “development and international relations” and which at the same time seem particularly relevant to the problem of globalization and social change:

- Globalization and Regionalization
- Globalization and Changing State-Society Relations
- Globalization and World Order
- Globalization, Nationalism and Identity
- Globalization, Technology and Society
- Globalization, Environment and the Ecological Challenge
- Globalization, Labour, Social Welfare and Participatory Systems

The methodology and clusters is summed up in the following figure:

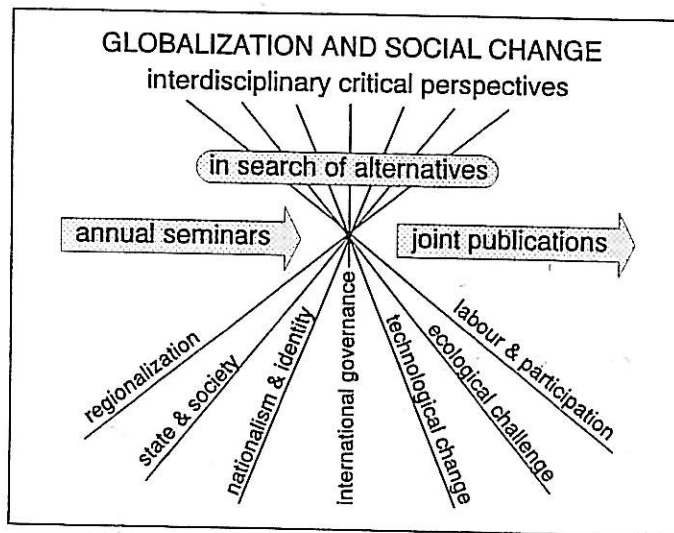
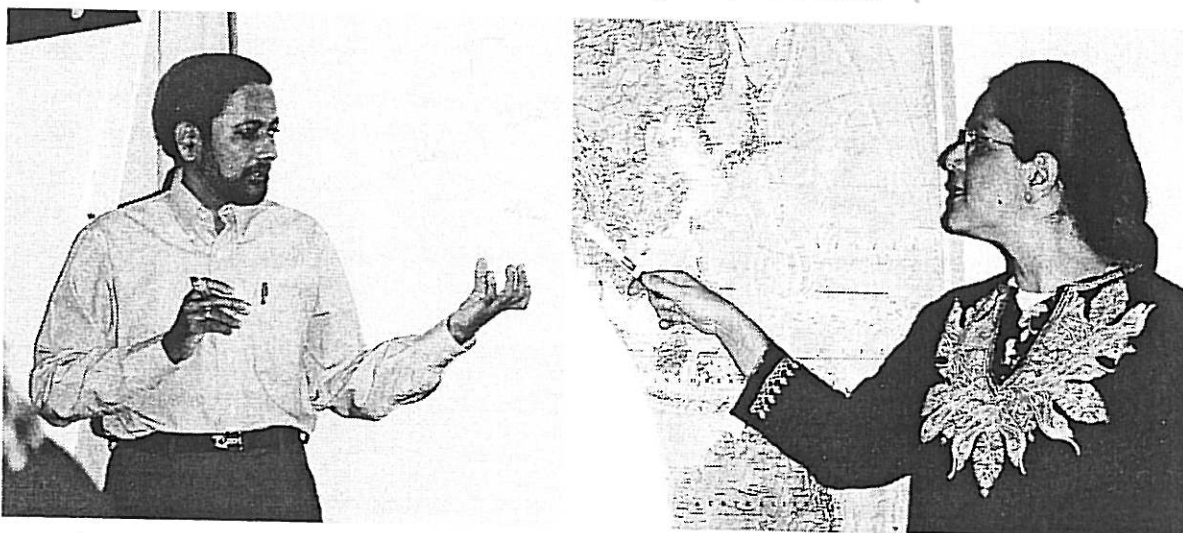


Figure 1: Organization and Strategic Perspectives of DIR



Guest Prof. Suresh Narayanan from University Saint Malaysia and Dr Sarmila Chandra from Kothari Medical Research Centre, Calcutta, providing an insight into methodological and spatial problems at a DIR seminar

Part 4

Research Clusters and Projects in Brief

A) Globalization and Regionalization

It focuses on the possible interactions between political and economic factors determining whether a more self-reliant regional based space can offer protection from world market forces.

The importance of regional integration (NAFTA, APEC, ASEAN, MERCOSUR) has been inspired by the European example which is the most institutionalized. Do these constructions conform to the logic of globalization or do they represent defensive counter-movements of regional economies to the unfettered mechanisms of worldwide competition? As of yet, the European Union does not seem to have come to term with the globalization/regionalization paradox. On the one hand, the EU is seen as adjusting to the demands of the neoliberal discourse, while on the other, simultaneously constructing the socioeconomic and political architecture of a spatial entity which potentially could offer protection from the global market mechanisms. A kind of “Rhineland” capitalism based on German/continental European socioeconomic and political traditions confronting the Anglo-Saxon model or an alternative more self-centered perhaps Green continental model.



Research projects:

Jacques Hersh: *The Globalization/Regionalization Dichotomy*

Steen Fryba Christensen: *State and Business in Argentina's and Brazil's Development Policies of the 1990's in Historical Perspective: Mercosur as a National Strategy for Insertion in the World Economy?*

Johannes Schmidt: *Asean and the New Regional Economic Order in East Asia*

B) Globalization and Changing State-Society Relations

It focuses on the pressures and impact of the global actors and institutions on the policy makers and state entities and the concomitant social configurations.

In East and Southeast Asia, the recent havoc caused by the financial crisis raises questions as to the sustainability and viability of the concept of the “developmental state. Has

there been an East-Asian Confucian-type capitalism based on a political economy variant of economic nationalism? Are we seeing the contours of an implicit struggle waged by Anglo-Saxon capitalism, supported by the IMF, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization, in order to pry these economies open to international capital interests? Will these socioeconomic formations be rendered defenceless and will the "developmental state" be reduced to the status of "regulatory state"? Such a transition could have repercussions on the legitimacy of the political regimes who have engaged on a path of democratization. The outcome of this evolution would not be of little consequences as nationalism is still a potent force in these countries. This problematique is vital for students of development studies as well as IPE, but also at the policy level with regard to comparison between the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Research projects:

Li Xing: *From Financial to Social Crisis: Impact of Globalization on East Asian Capitalism*

Orathai Ard-Am PhD project: *Democracy, Decentralization and Voluntary Organization in Thailand: A Comparative Study of Two Provinces*

Jacques Hersh and Johannes Schmidt: *Comparing Contemporary Modes of Interaction Between Capitalism and Social Forces*

Li Xing, Jacques Hersh and Johannes Schmidt: *The Interactions of Globalization and the Internal Evolution of East Asia (China), Russia and Eastern Europe*

C) Globalization and World Order: International Governance and Small States

A problem which will increasingly affect the way the interstate system is related to the diversity of national states and their position in the international system. As it now stands, the world structure is composed, on the one hand, of a multitude of small political entities each claiming sovereignty and equality while on the other, there is a hierarchical order aiming at achieving stability and maintaining the status quo. The question of international governance implies an understanding of how the discrepancies between different nation-states can be overcome as zones of instability have appeared especially outside the reach of Western dominated international institutions.

The idea of the project is to look closer into how risks and opportunities for small states are affected by participation in transnational agencies attempting to strengthen global governance in the changing world order. This raises issues both of a more general nature and

those related to the particular problem of the possible role of small states in the new international system.

Research projects:



Feiwel Kupferberg: *Globalization and World Order: International Governance and Small States*

D) Globalization, Nationalism and Identity

It focuses on the creation of new political and cultural configurations responses and types of resistance to social chaos and crisis partly as a result of difficulties of nation-states in integrating the world economy.

In the Middle East, where maldevelopment has been the rule, globalization has not alleviated the problem of geopolitics and the importance of nationalism. These parameters have in fact been strengthened and their unresolved tensions affect the issue of peace and security as well as economic integration. The existing insecurity caused by disturbances created by regional interstate disputes as well as the "no war, no peace" situation between Israel and the Palestinian Authority on the one hand, and the perpetual Kurdish question affecting the countries of the region -- including NATO-member Turkey -- do not encourage the area in becoming fully integrated in the new World Order or in creating a Middle East common market in the context of "globalization." This is a most difficult puzzle which demands more attention than the culturalist buzz-notion of "clash of civilization." The progression of political Islam has to be analysed as a symptom of the frustrations of the populations resulting from the socioeconomic situation which is a function of the failure of modernization as implemented by secular regimes and Western influence. However, the clash is primarily on the domestic and regional levels with inter-state rivalries and nationalist movements as main actors but of course not without geopolitical fallouts.

Besides the case of the Middle East, the question is whether development is conceived as a replication of the Western model or somewhat differently, there is a growing sense that its very success might in the end lead to its eventual demise. One example is the foreseeable exhaustion of some non-renewable materials essential to growth-oriented economies. This factor alone implies a necessary reorientation of most societies: Not least the highly industrial ones. In a transnational world, such a reorientation is hardly to be expected from either the state or the market. The question is whether the different pressures of globalization bring forth new potentialities for alternative theory and practice this time emerging from civil society itself.

In modern society, the latter trends take on new significance and implications, one of which being the attitude to both the state and the market, transcending the ruling ideologies of socialism and liberalism - sometimes combining aspects of both. The modern world is a world of rapid transformation. It is also one of enormous social problems, technological threat and ecological disaster. The conditions of modern mass society tend to reduce civil society to a state of conformity and apathy. Vibrant counter cultures challenge this state of affairs. Alternative values, forms of rationality, a new awareness of the relationship between theory and practice, between human being and nature are giving rise to the formulation of new social projects.

Research projects:

Jacques Hersh, Johannes D. Schmidt and Akram T. Hawas: *The Middle East - Between Global Pressure, Local Identity and Nationalism*

Akram T. Hawas: ***The Kurdish Question*** 1) *Hegemony and the Kurdish Collapse* 2) *The Kurds and the New World Order* 3) *The Kurdish Question: A Cultural Perspective; Islamic History* 1) *Islam/West: Impacts on the Societal Development in the Middle East* 2) *The Forsaken Norms: Interaction or Dichotomy?; Regional Perspectives* 1) *Egypt at a Crossroad: Between Internal Societal Challenges and Regional Hegemonic Ambitions* 2) *Towards A Trans-State Hegemonic Peace Settlement* 3) *The New Alliance of Turkey and Israel: Is it a course towards a new division of the Middle East?*

Feiwei Kupferberg: 1) *Global Democratization and Ethnic Violence* 2) *The Revival of GDR - Identity after Unification: East German Professionals, Public Commitments and Biographical Investments* 3) *Creativity Abroad. The Biographical Experience and Cultural Impact of Expatriates and Refugees* 4) *Meaning-systems and Social Order. Coping with the Past in Post-war Germany*

Ellen Brun: *Sustainable Priorities - The Case of Double Rationality* - Focusing on the hidden rationality of close human relations by identifying common value systems capable of uniting people for change and alternative solutions based on every-day practice.

Johannes Schmidt: *The Middle East Between Agony and Progress: Towards a New Palestine*

E) Globalization, Technology and Society

While globalization is primarily understood as a socio-economic process, the technological aspect takes on, in a developmental perspective, a most significant position. The globalization discourse assumes that the diffusing of technology from the core together with the market mechanisms constitute the key to upgrading existing physical and human productivity while being the formula for successful participation in the global economy. On the other hand, under the influence of the political environment (i.e. state and local authorities, NGO's and

international organizations cum donors) inventions and innovations with regard to human and physical capital maximization at the local and national social and economic levels contribute either to greater participation or the possibility of resistance to externally imposed conditions.

The present research project intends to focus on some of the embryonic socially progressive processes in sight. It seeks in-depth insight into some of these, in search of possibly already existing alternatives to conventional modernization interventions.

Research projects:

Jens Müller and Pernille Berthelsen: A research project about the rural informal sector in East Africa, notably Tanzania: *Indigenous systems of Innovation in East Africa*

Mona Dahms: 1) *Africa joining the 'Information Society' - investigating the Need for Telecentres in Rural Tanzania*, 2) *Entrepreneurial Engineers - Engineering Education and Private Sector Development*

Peter Benjamin: *Informatics for Community Development: Evaluating the Impact of Telecentres in South Africa*

Steen Seierup: 1) *Urban Economic Activities in East Africa* 2) *Transfer of Cleaner Environment Equipment and Knowledge to Southeast Asia*

F) Globalization, Environment and the Ecological Challenge

While the globalization process has given priority to the liberalization of economic activities and reduced political institutional interferences, recent awareness of the environmental and ecological costs of this evolution has put this relationship on the international agenda. Likewise, initiatives are being taken at the local level whereby political actors and communities are looking at possible solutions. This involves social and political processes which need to be researched so that the experience of existing initiatives may contribute and encourage a "learning from each other" process on the international scale.

By combining an expertise in environmental economics, management and planning with a long-term interest in local activism and social movements, we focus on the points of contention and controversy between the quest for a sustainable development and broader public concerns for democracy, participation, and equity. Must the environment be saved by putting in place new hierarchical relations and new forms of inequality; or can the efforts to

meet the environmental challenges posed by globalization serve to inspire new forms of local democracy and active public involvement in technological and other environmental projects?

Research projects:

Andrew Jamison and Klaus Lindegaard : *Globalization and the Environmental Challenge*

Andrew Jamison and Eskild Holm Nielsen: 1) *Public Participation and Environmental Science and Technology Policy Options (PESTO)*

Andrew Jamison and Eskild Holm Nielsen: 2) *Institutional Reform in Science and Technology in Vietnam* 2) *Between State and Movement: The Industrial Appropriation of Pollution Prevention* 4) *The Transformation of Environmental Activism* (no details provided)

Klaus Lindegaard: 1) *Public Alliances and Participation in Sustainable Development Strategies for Central America (PAP-SUDESCA)*

Klaus Lindegaard: 2) *Environmental Liability and Technological Practice* (no details provided)

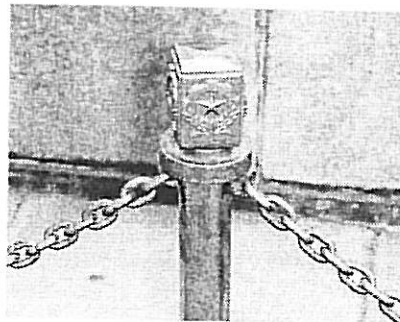
Johannes Schmidt: 1) *Social sustainability in Southeast Asia* 2) *Ecological problems in urban and industrial settings in Southern Africa and Southeast Asia. (together with DUCED)* (no details provided)

G) Globalization, Social Welfare and Participatory Systems

A key question facing social sciences in connection with globalization is whether the process will result in greater social welfare or whether globalization serves to reduce the social dimension of twentieth century capitalism. Will an evolution towards more democracy open the way to a greater contest over the economic surplus/social product? How will the political systems absorb the demands of the social classes at a time when adjustment to the conditionalities imposed by the IMF and other powerful multilateral institutions go in the direction of the dismantling of the interventionist state?

Research projects:

Susanne Thorbek: *Prostitution in a Global Context*



Annette Kanstrup-Jensen: *A Comparative Study of Education and Human Development Among Ethnic Minority Groups in the Lao PDR and Thailand.*

Hans Hestvang: *Development and Social Change in Myanmar (Burma)*.

Bo Vagnby: *Project and Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation: Health; Housing; Maintenance of Social Infrastructure; Community Participation; Urban Renewal; Urban Development* (no details provided)

Johannes Schmidt: *What Should the Vietnamese Learn From the Thai 'Miracle'? And What to Avoid*

Johannes Schmidt: 1) *Globalization, the role of labour and Social Welfare in Comparative Perspective: Unique or New* (This section addresses questions like whether social welfare might be seen as a comparative advantage/disadvantage in relation to international competition). What are the strategies of East Asia, EU and the Anglo-Saxon countries? 2) *Reconstructing the Developmental State* (The state in East and Southeast Asia has been under severe attack from both internal and external forces and is at the moment in the process of renewal and maybe away from its statist characteristics. The question is what type of new state configuration is emerging?) 3) *Reforms, social adjustments and the response of social groups* 4) *Individual case-studies from East and Southeast Asia with a particular focus on the state and the regional perspective* (no details provided)

Gorm Winther: 1) *Participatory and labour-managed Systems Future Projects*: 2) *Towards an Economic Independent Greenland Beyond the Millennium* 3) *Employee Stock Ownership Plans in the US*

Gorm Winther: 4) *The Socio-economic Effects of Oil, Natural Gas and Mineral Exploitation in Greenland* (no details provided)

Linking the Clusters

The unifying logic behind these research clusters is the fact that each is affected by as well as affecting globalization and world order/chaos thus opening for a better understanding of currents and countercurrents to this evolution. The levels of analysis focus on: 1) the interaction between globalization and regionalization (especially Europe and Latin America); 2) the interaction of globalization and the changing role of the state (Eastern Europe, East and Southeast Asia); 3) the interaction of globalization and political instability (Middle East); 4) the question of institutionalizing international governance and order in a world comprising small states aiming at protecting their national interests (Africa, South Asia and Eastern Europe). 5) The problem of enhancing local capacities for technology upgrading both as increasing self-reliance and as responses to the increasing impact of marketization and globalization, but also as part and parcel of development assistance and collaboration between local authorities, universities and NGO's (Africa). 6) The erosion of national and local capabilities and institutional governance to control

resources related to the environment as cases of self-defence against the increasing hegemony of transnational capital and multilateral regimes in the hands of the North. Focus is the interlinkage between the local and the global quest for resolutions of environmental and ecological problem areas in both urban and rural settings in selected Third World countries. 7) The impact of neoliberal globalization on weak states and local communities as part of an international trend of "competitive austerity". In Greenland and selected countries of East and Southeast Asia governments are forced to downgrade social welfare and labour rights in order to attract foreign capital and bow to the demands of the global open market discourses with potentially grave consequences for the social environment.

Methodological Considerations in Understanding the Concept of Globalization

Globalization has become the dominant notion used to describe the changing realities affecting all societies and nations in the world. The concept is all-encompassing but nevertheless evasive. It is consequently easy to relate to, but difficult to understand when applied to the dynamics of change.

This raises difficulties for social sciences in the conceptualization of the transformations taking place. The perspective suggested here proposes that, rather than conceptualizing globalization as a rupture, understanding globalization as a historical process in the expansion and deepening of capitalism on the world scale seems to be an appropriate epistemological point of departure. However, by having become universal, the logic of capitalism has penetrated almost all aspects of social existence without having, though, superseded its mode of functioning. Thus, universalization is not the same as homogenization. This implies that old as well as new sources of contradictions and tensions are to be expected.

Methodologically, the recognition of globalization as a process opens up for dialectically related research, i.e. considering the large whole (structure) as the point of departure and then proceeding to an examination of the part in order to establish the way it functions and fits into the whole, thereby leading to a fuller comprehension of the structure. The application of dialectics in research aims at bringing into focus the full range of changes and interactions that are functions of the contradictions generated by the process. The methodology is thus based on cognition through observation while inductive and deductive activities assist the research in going from the level of generalities to the level of implications of both observations and specific theories. A further distinction between "base" and "superstructure" permits to incorporate forces and agencies at work. While the "base" can be considered the world system which has entered the phase of having become a global economy (integrating all national economies), the "superstructure" is characterized by the transnationalization of political processes and systems.

In academic terms the latter is related to central concerns of political sociology such as the state, social classes, power and ideology. The relationship between "base" and "superstructure" levels may be best studied by the application of political economy to sociological phenomena within a "macro-structural historical" framework. This approach permits the uncovering of tensions between structure and agencies on the global level and identifying mediating links. In this respect, the concept of hegemony might be useful in the conceptualization of the "consensual" acceptance by the dominated classes of the asymmetry in the international political economy through the internalization of the moral and cultural values as well as the code of conduct and world view of the dominant classes.

One area which has been victimized by the notion of globalization and its accompanying ideology of neoliberalism is the study of economic development. While comparative historical analysis and the historical structural approach (world system and dependency) operated with the problematic of change (catching-up and development through the implementation of economic nationalism and/or delinking) most of the present-day theoretical constructions on globalization abstract from the unevenness in the world thereby implicitly assuming that these inequalities are of secondary importance and best left to the unfolding of market mechanisms. However, at sub-national levels, there is much to learn from the practice of implementing development projects through either official foreign assistance programs or the activities of (I)NGOs. To what extent the former harmonize with the thrust of globalization and the latter open a possible escape from this process are interesting questions in the context of development studies and international political economy.

Understanding globalization

According to a conventional interpretation, a most significant assumption is that the concept of globalization denotes a decrease of the importance of old preoccupations such as territoriality and sovereignty. This represents the essence of the neoliberal position. The global economy is projected to be one where the distinct national economies are subsumed and rearticulated into the world system through international processes and the transactions of economic actors, like the TNCs. While this might correspond to the evolution at work in the global market at the level of economic activities and capital movements, societies are nevertheless still submitted to the politics of the Westphalian order, i.e. arrangements based on the principle of sovereignty and the interaction of territorial entities as represented by nation-states. This comprehension harmonizes with theories of international relations as developed by the Realist tradition. Within the discipline of International Political Economy the merging of the economic and political dimensions of present-day world capitalism corresponds to the assumptions of the Hegemonic

Stability Theory which projected the necessity of the US leadership in the administration of the liberal post-World War II open economy. Paradoxically, such a conceptualization is closely related to the World System Analysis which considers the capitalist world economy as the only existing international system with countries placed in a hierarchical order according to their economic status, political strength and capacities.

The meltdown of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War -- which was the geopolitical cement behind the Western alliance -- together with the latent trend towards American unilateralism (especially, but not exclusively in economic matters) and the disenchantment with the costs of hegemony and free trade ideology have weakened the former foreign policy consensus in the United States. Simultaneously with this evolution, the liberalization and deregulation of the world economy represent a theoretical challenge to the former Keynesian comprehension of the international political economy and national macro-economic levels. This affects particularly the "problem-solving" theoretical tradition. In contrast, the critical sociological IPE approach has all along focused on the anomalies and fragmentation tendencies by looking at interstate relations from the political, economic, societal and cultural levels.

The first approach is thus reform-minded that is concerned with how to make the system function optimally, while the second is radically engaged in going beyond symptoms to the essence of the phenomenon in order to open the way for the search of alternatives. Although the two apparently dissimilar objectives appear to be incompatible at first glance, they need not be mutually exclusive. That is a certain synergy might be beneficial to both endeavours consequently increasing the heuristic value of research.

Understood in this manner, globalization ought to be comprehended as the continuation of a historical process by other means with a variety of possible outcomes. Although differences with previous periods are evident, the expansion of capitalism can be characterized as one of integration and rejection or marginalization. As such, nation-states have traditionally sought to adapt to the possibilities and constraints of the international environment by mobilizing human and material resources to protect societies, catch-up, or be accepted as member-states of the inter-state system or world economy. This is incorporated by neostatism in development theory.

Economically and structurally, globalization can be characterized as a most intensive attempt at the implementation of a global social structure of accumulation. As such it tends, on the one hand to deepen, and on the other to impact the domestic modes of social structure of accumulation. The tension between the two is perhaps best analysed by taking the two dimensions, globalization and world order into the methodology and in the construction of a

theoretical frame of reference which pays attention to both the geopolitical aspects as well as the geoeconomic aspects at the different levels of analysis and combining these with a sociological perspective.

In this research program the methodology guiding the different research clusters will be based on the analysis of the interaction of the following dimensions: the location of these regions and nation-states in the world system (geopolitics + geoeconomics), the type of social structure of accumulation as well as the class constellation (socioeconomics), the role of the state and ideological hegemony (sociopolitics).

The thesis is that a number of determinants are at work in the globalization process producing unintended outcomes which can be best captured by understanding the potential areas of contradictions.



"Can you imagine, in 1997 they actually believed in Progress."

Can you imagine, in 1997 they actually believed in progress.

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Part 5

Research Clusters and Projects in Detail

Globalization and Regionalization

The world today is characterized by an evolution whereby globalization is said to be taking place while a process of regionalization of the world economy is equally taking shape. First and foremost in Europe, but similar trends are also at work elsewhere.

This raises the issue of locating the place and role of the nation-state in the context of adjusting to and resisting forces which are released by the world market and the international organization of world affairs.

To what extent does regionalism offer member nations protection and security which formerly the state was responsible for.



Prof. Leslie Sklair, London School of Economics and group work at the PhD Training Course on "Globalization, Regionalization and Social Change" in Skagen October 1998

Jacques Hersh: The Globalization/Regionalization Dichotomy

Background analysis of globalization

The main focus of the present research is the evolution of Europe in the context of capitalism's mode of functioning on the national and international levels. The divergent assumptions and conceptualizations in the sphere of decision-making as well as in the world of academia make such an approach indispensable. In order to formulate a perspective for European stability, we

can hardly overlook the existence of conflicting interpretations of recent European history, particularly the period after World War II.

As a consequence of what is perceived to be modest prospects for economic dynamism, divisions and centrifugal tendencies are making themselves felt. Within the world of "pure" economics, a complicated relationship of interdependence and contradiction between the "real" economy of production and the "symbol" economy of finance is becoming apparent each pushing in their own direction propelled by self-serving interests. At the level of international political economy, the alleged trend of globalization is in the process of giving way to the regionalization of the world economy characterized by increasing rivalry and protectionism. Under these circumstances, economic competition between the members of the triad is simply the reverse side of interdependence. Future historians may demonstrate that economic conflicts can upset the stability of societies and cause casualties among the civilian populations as effectively as military ones. The chaotic situation created by local and inter-regional competition is accompanied by an international arms trade with the perspective of prolonging and aggravating potential and actual local conflicts.

Whether the political-economic structures of the European Community, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the East Asian bloc will develop into forms of collective neomercantilism with the possible result as in the 1930s of aggressive hostilities, is a question which must be taken seriously. Parallel to the relative decline of US hegemony, complementarity has been eroding on both the economic and political levels in the post-Cold War era.

The outcome of these countervailing trends is almost bound to have implications for core societies. The process of globalization of production and finance coexists with the tendencies towards disintegration of the world economy. While the latter trend symbolizes the attempt to reassert the priority of politics (in alliance with productive capital and labor) over market mechanisms, the liberalization of capital movements demonstrates the strength and vitality of international finance capital. The market left to its own device has a propensity to lead to chaotic conditions which in the last analysis becomes the responsibility of the political sphere. The process of socio-economic disruptions and the dislocations which the world system is presently going through leads on the one hand to insecurity and instability, while on the other hand opens a space for new socio-economic and political experiments.

Project formulation

The presentation of factors influencing Europe's situation dictates a thoroughgoing analytical effort in order to verify or refute their various interpretations. Comprehension of the European problematique is a necessary point of departure for any serious search for security which in the present world must be a function of socio-economic and political arrangements at national, regional and international levels.

The research project thus proposes to establish a multidisciplinary theoretical frame of reference for a discussion of Europe's problems as a result of contradictions and potential conflicts generated by the capitalist world economy. This approach is a precondition for the search of options. Paramount in this connection is the recognition of the need to transcend conventional thinking. Scenarios which presuppose a return to high economic growth are met with increasing scepticism even in established political and academic circles. This notwithstanding, the dominant attitude still rests on such an assumption and views any talk of alternatives as utopian.

In the endeavour to establish the groundwork for a persuasive alternative to the dominant discourse, it is necessary for "engaged" research not only to deconstruct the all-encompassing concepts of vulgar economism: competitiveness, comparative advantage, structural adjustments, etc., but equally to offer new concepts and values which may contribute to the establishment of societal organization-forms and economic order of a kind corresponding to the needs for national, regional and international security.

It is in this spirit that the project will investigate the possibilities and constraints inherent in three scenarios for a European solution to the security problems created by the workings of the capitalist world system.

Methodological considerations

The project involves a multi-disciplinary approach whereby past and current international political economy and development theories will be investigated. The philosophical dimension will be incorporated in the discussion of the possibility of establishing harmony between different social formations.

The project will be guided by the attempt to establish a frame of reference based on precision and delineation of concepts. Concretization and transparency in understanding

significant mechanisms of socio-economic and political patterns may help us conceptualize important areas of societal transformation and their link to social and national security issues.

Steen Fryba Christensen: State and Business in Argentina's and Brazil's Development Policies of the 1990's in Historical Perspective: Mercosur as a National Strategy for Insertion in the World Economy?

After a decade with unstable macro-economic conditions and in the midst of a full fledged economic crisis, in the early 1990's Argentina and Brazil opted to liberalize their economic relations with the outside world, leaving thus former policies of import substitution and protectionism.

This coincided with the 1991 signing of the Asunción Treaty that established the Mercosur common market that by 1995 turned into a customs union, between Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Mercosur's regional integration scheme gave, with the establishment of the customs union, the group an international juridical legitimacy in its dealings with the rest of the world. Mercosur is currently negotiating its future political and economic relationship with the EU.

At the same time the member countries are taking part in the FTAA (Free Trade Agreement of the Americas) negotiation process which was commenced in Miami, USA, in December of 1994. In these negotiations all countries in the Western Hemisphere, with the exception of Cuba, partake. NAFTA and Mercosur (particularly the USA and Brazil) are dominant in the negotiations.

Thus Mercosur has become an important actor in international politics and constitutes the fourth regional power in terms of economic size, following the EU, NAFTA and Japan. Its future economic relationship to the USA and the EU is of interest to these two actors and constitutes an interesting theme in the study of current economic processes of globalization and regionalization.

This PhD dissertation will seek to discuss the development strategies and policies of Argentina and Brazil in this setting. In discussing the two countries' development strategies the emphasis will be laid on two aspects: 1) What is the historical background for Argentina and Brazil's current economic strategies, and can the strategies be defined as national strategies? 2) In formulating the development strategies and implementing the economic development policies of Argentina and Brazil in the 1990's which direct and indirect weight

did the private business communities of the two countries carry (especially the manufacturing sector)?



Advocating Trade Not Aid!

The two main goals of this PhD project are:

1) To understand the reasons behind the economic liberalization of the 1990's and to study the impact of the two countries' development policies on society, and societal response to the development policies, in order to be able to establish if and how the development strategies and policies can be said to be national responses to global and regional processes of integration. 2) To understand the impact of globalization, regionalization and the economic crisis situations of Argentina and Brazil in the 1980's and early 1990's on state-society relations in the two countries, the focus being on the relationship between state and private business.

Historically state and private business have had a close and friendly relationship in the two countries, also in the periods of bureaucratic authoritarian rule of the military dictatorships that came to an end in 1983 in Argentina and 1984 in Brazil. The relationship between the twin processes of political liberalization (or democratization) and economic liberalization are thus at the heart of the analysis this PhD dissertation.

Johannes Schmidt: Asean and the New Regional Economic Order in East Asia

The geopolitical framework in post Cold War East Asia suggests that substantial changes have taken place in the post-socialist countries. At a theoretical level, new research on trade, domestic and foreign investment and new economic policies has revealed a whole set of problems connected to the convergence of economic policy-making in a regional group like Asean. The new agreements on phasing out tariffs and other trading barriers have been delayed and postponed by protest from domestic coalitions and nationalist sentiment. On the other hand the US military withdrawal from the region challenges the coherence of the regional organizations. Related to this, it is relevant to ask, what are the prospects of countries like Vietnam, Laos and Burma achieving for membership of Asean! Is it possible and meaningful to expand a sub-regional association where all member countries are subjected to the same level of high dependency of world market forces and at the same time facing uncertainty with regard to the upcoming of new regional powers?

Globalization and Changing State-Society Relations

Until a few years ago, the economic dynamism of East Asia raised the prospect of the region becoming the new center of world capitalism. Following the financial crisis of the summer 1997 it has become presumptuous to predict the outcome of the difficulties facing important countries of the region. The consequence on the social and political levels will take time to unfold as these countries are forced to adjust to the demands of the world economy.

Li Xing: From Financial to Social Crisis: Impact of Globalization on East Asian Capitalism

Problem conceptualization: themes and debates

East Asia has become the object of various studies. This is perhaps because of the intense curiosity raised by the first case of successful industrialization outside the Western cultural sphere, and also perhaps because these examples of Third World countries seemed to challenge the assumptions of existing theory.

The question that arises is what is happening to these economies struggling with collapsing currencies and plunging stock markets? First Thailand, then Indonesia followed by

South Korea, the world's 11th largest economy, all have had to ask the IMF for emergency loans. Even Japan, the world's second largest economy after the United States, looks vulnerable and has not yet offered any substantial contribution to ease the current economic crisis.

The debates of the Asian economic crisis have gone from praise to criticism of the region's development model leading to attacks on the Asian social and political systems. Traditional debates between neoliberals and statistes over the relationship between market and state, "free" and "governed" market as well as democracy versus authoritarianism are reemerging.

Focus of this research project

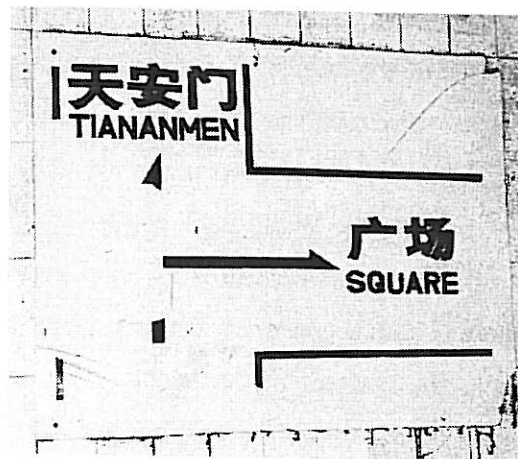
In face of the current crisis, a number of questions are worth pondering: Has there been an Asian-type capitalism based on a political economy variant of economic nationalism? Are we seeing the contours of a struggle waged by proponents of Anglo-Saxon capitalism, supported by the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO in order to pry these economies open to external capital interests? Related is the more central and important question: is Asian capitalism, if there is such a construct, able to exist in the age of globalization? If the answer is negative, then, the concept of "developmental state" and the role of the state in the domain of development studies need serious rethinking.

Many of the above debates and arguments are confined within a narrow conceptualization of the development of capitalism in the context of individual nation state - the relationship between state and market, or input and productivity. However, understanding Asian "capitalism" and the current financial crisis can be better conceptualized by studying a number of key macro factors behind the East Asian "miracle" and the current crisis:

- *The historical specificity of the developmental state phenomenon in East Asia.* This historical specificity in connection to the external geopolitical environment and the favourable conjunction with a certain phase in the development of postwar capitalism determines both the limits of this catching-up path for the future of East Asian developmental states themselves and the emulation of such a model by developing countries in general.
- *The transformation of the post-Cold War international political economy and geoeconomics.* The relative decline of the US economy, the rising protectionism in Europe

and the establishment of two Western economic blocks (EU and NAFTA), indicates that reliance on Western markets by both the Asian NICs and the late-comers of Southeast Asia can no longer be taken for granted. The capitalist world economy is undergoing dramatic transformation which affects fundamental economic, political and social relationships such as capital-to-labour, capital-to-capital, capital-to-state.

- *The China factor in understanding the rise and fall of East Asia capitalism.* The “contribution” of the Chinese Revolution to the US intervention policies in East Asia whose industrialism was fostered by both internal and external forces. Today, the impact of the emergence of China is bound to have a world dimension which will exert an unavoidable influence on the evolution of East Asia trajectory.



Tiananmen Square in Beijing - Mapping China's future

The theoretical approach of the three areas of studies is largely based on the world system perspective. The globalization thesis posits that the winners in the new international economic order will be those nations whose cultural and political institutions as well as populations readily adapt to the rapidly changing conditions. However, lessons from the Asian economic crisis which involves social, ecological, cultural and political consequences must be taken into consideration. This is because the crisis in the transformation of international political economy is closely connected with the changing state-society relations. Therefore, critical theories must be expanded to question the concepts and language of the prevailing discourses in the light of the past experiences.

This research project will focus on the changing relationship between the international political economy and East and Southeast Asian capitalism aiming at exploring the evolution

and transformation at both levels as well as the impact and interaction between them as well as conceptualizing the East Asian crisis by re-analyzing relationships between those elements which are said to have contributed to East Asia's economic success.

Orathai Ard-am: Democracy, Decentralization and Voluntary Organization in Thailand: A Comparative Study of Two Provinces

This PhD dissertation is motivated by the following problem-complex:

- To what extent the new constitution of Thailand can make differences to the history of democratic development and the features of (pluralist) democracy of the country?
- What conditions are needed for successful decentralization and creation of real local government or structural transformation of public bureaucracy and how do the provincial communities in the two provinces seek to create such conditions or how these organizations actually exert influence on political decisions? What are the norms, patterns of socialization and models/concepts of democracy of these organizations? What are the relationships between democratic/active citizenship and effective political/state agency or to what extent the civil society/voluntary organizations could contribute to the new features of political/state agency? And the questions of gender and political power or what are the differences between men's and women's concept of democracy and civil society.
- What are the prospects for Thailand in the future concerning democracy, decentralization, civil society and democratic citizenship?

The analysis and discussion will be divided into two levels: the national and the local levels. On the national level, the discussion will be structured by selecting some important points which concern with constitution and democracy, decentralization, local government and structural transformation of public bureaucracy, public/private sphere and effective state/political agency. The background on the socio-political and historical development of Thailand will also be presented and discussed. On the local level, the analysis and discussion will be expanded to cover more points such as civil society or voluntary organisations, gender, democratic citizenship, corporatism, partnerships and class alliance with respect to comparison between the two provinces. The context and background of the two provinces will also be presented and discussed comparatively. In this latter level of analysis, the focus will be

on actual popular participation in political decision-making or analyze how people actually exert (or do not exert) influence on political decisions and also the way people organize (or do not organize), and to look at the kinds of channels that exist (particularly the Provincial Communities) between local communities/grassroot organizations and decision-makers on various political levels. The functionalities and other important points of the voluntary organizations and/or Provincial Communities that are derived from empirical methods will be analyzed and discussed based on theoretical interpretation of state-civil society and democratic citizenship. The points that concerning corporatism, partnerships and class alliance will be discussed at the end after the discussion and analysis of the people's conception and definition of democracy with respect to gender.

Johannes Schmidt and Jacques Hersh: Comparing Contemporary Modes of Interaction Between Capitalism and Social Forces

This project reconsiders the rather incomplete understanding of the East Asian model, by comparing this experience with other political and economic constructs. It poses the question, "Is East Asian capitalism going to be different?" And "What are the implications for the rest of the world?"

It is the contention of this project that the type of capitalism in East Asia has been distinct, when compared to Western style capitalism, which itself could be differentiated into several kinds of capitalism. With Berger, one is entitled to speak of the East Asian model and its specific experience as a 'second case' of capitalist modernity. An incomplete list of ingredients of this variant of capitalism consists of salient economic features: High economic growth rates sustained over many years; the remarkable fact that in some of these countries (Taiwan is probably the most important one) high growth has been associated, at least for a while, with a reduction of income inequality; a remarkable improvement in the average material standards of living; a highly active state role in shaping the development process; an underdeveloped welfare state (even in Japan); low tax and high savings rates (two probably interconnected factors); and an economy geared to exports. (While East Asia economies are capitalist, with the possible exception of Hong Kong they certainly did not adhere to laissez-faire capitalism)

Among the sub-questions this problematic raises are the following: Could it be that East Asia has been successful in generating a non-individualistic version of capitalist

modernity? What has been the timing of industrialization and what are the specific state relations with business and other social forces? 'Asianness' could be interpreted as another expression for 'Ersatz' capitalism where 'free riding' in a traditional neo-classical sense is the order of the day. In other words, are we witnessing a generically new construct of maturing capitalism or may the contemporary changes taking place just be considered as a phase along the way to a more traditional well-known specie of capitalism?

Li Xing, Jacques Hersh and Johannes Schmidt: The Interactions of Globalization and the Internal Evolution of East Asia (China), Russia and Eastern Europe

The point of departure of this project is to conceptualize and explore the relationship between the interactions of globalization process on the one hand and modernization of the former socialist states on the other.

Introduction: the "failure" of the socialist modernization project

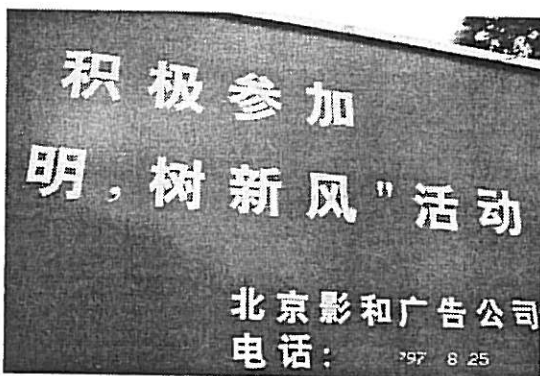
Since this century, China, Russia and other ex-socialist countries have been struggling to achieve modernization. The search to ensure their existence as prosperous strong nations and political entities has been a key concern in their modern history. Their earlier modernization "attempts" suffered series of setbacks by the scope of the challenge and the pressures from internal and external forces. Seeking a way for the transformation and revival of these nations, first Russia then China eventually found elements of an answer in Marxist philosophy and revolutionary worldview. Depending on how one assesses their successes and failures, both Russia and China were characterized as historically unique experiment to skip over the stage of capitalism and to bring about a socialist transformation of both the social structure and the consciousness of the people.

However, at the end of 1980s, the whole socialist bloc collapsed suddenly and dramatically. Most socialist states gave up their socialism and started what they called the "second revolution," i.e. economic and political reform. It seems that the former socialist countries are left with "no choice" and "no alternative" to survive outside the capitalist world system. These countries seemingly cannot "afford" to be excluded from the development of globalization.

Theme of this project: modernization through globalization?

The project focuses on the evolution of a set of relations that have undergone new transformations in China and Russia and to study the social, political, economic consequences in the process of the "modernization through globalization".

At the state level both politically and economically, the internationalization of the state in which the restructuring of internal policies and institutions is implemented to accommodate the external exigencies of internationalized production and finance under global capitalism; this is replacing the former development alternatives implemented by individual countries in which the state used to define and manage processes such as accumulation and social organization within its borders. At the same time, the market is considered not only as a neutral place for the allocation of goods, resources and services but also as the most efficient way to regulate society. Consequently, the relationship between the state and market has become unbalanced and lopsided whereby the state is increasingly viewed as an institution that should exercise a subordinate role in providing the supportive infrastructure to the market.



Is the Confucian work ethic applicable?

At the same time globalization is redefining the role of the nation-state not only in the domains of domestic political and economic spheres but also in inter-state relations. But, is the internationalization of state policy and economic marketization conducive to the modernization project of the former socialist states? Is it possible to expect a convergence of their national modernization including industrialization and standard of living with the globalization process defined by the core industrial states? For example, can China imitate the

“catching-up” modernization model of the East Asian NICs which was carried out under specific geopolitical conditions and a favourable development environment, when those opportunities and conditions are diminishing today?

Since modernization for the existing Western industrial economies was achieved under the state as the main actor, the former socialist states are facing an inherent contradiction: on the one hand, states are the custodians of society to fulfil the role of providing social peace and security and protect national interests; on the other hand, the indisputable power of global capitalism reduces their capacity to do so.

The second level of analysis is to study the relationship between modernization and globalization *at the organizational/institutional level*. Modernization in the era of globalization implies not only mass production of goods and services, but also an ideological process in which the creation of a conform population and corresponding institutions is indispensable. In return, this logically presupposes a transformation in ideology, philosophy, cultural traditions, psychological attitude as well as way of organizing human life. Of interest is how will China, Russia and the former socialist states adjust to the above interactions and relations?

The third level is to analyze *the social consequences* of the modernization-through-globalization strategy. It has been argued that one of the major reasons for the failure of the Soviet-style socialism was the absence of an incentives structure to stimulate the individual working spirit - the absence of stimuli making people seek personal profits. The crucial question, therefore, is whether capitalist motivations or stimuli can be combined with maintaining a number of socialist justifications.

The rapid move from a planned economy towards a market economy has not only highlighted some old problems but has created new social uncertainties and potential unrest. The market economy is gradually pulling the whole nation in various directions. Thus, the importance of studying whether modernization in the former socialist states can be achieved without causing further severe social and economic dislocations.

Globalization and World Order

The Challenge facing the world system in the realm of international relations is connected to the attempt to establish order in a environment of disorder. This affects the status of nations in

a basically hierarchical interstate system where some members are more equal than others. This inequality releases efforts by small and medium-states to strive for the respect of what they consider to be their national interest and powerful actors to retain world order based on the status quo.

Feiwel Kupferberg: Globalization and World Order: International Governance and Small States

A main characteristic of the changing world order in the post-cold war period is the expectation that no state alone can cope with the global challenges ahead. Some kind of global governance of the main policy issues of a world dimension will be necessary. This raises the intellectual and political problem of how the role of small states will be affected by these changes in the international system. Obviously there are both great risks and new opportunities involved.

The idea of the project is to look closer into how risks and opportunities for small states are affected by participation in transnational agency attempting to strengthen global governance in the changing world order. This raises issues both of a more general nature and those related to the particular problem of the possible role of small states in the new international system.

What are the structure and the main pillars of the emerging post-cold war order? Which issues tend to raise expectations of increased global governance? What is the role of small states in these transnational attempts to manage and control the world?

In particular the project intends to investigate to what degree small states really gain from these developments. What are the costs and risks involved? Does participation in or cooperation with transnational agency increase respect for the voice and interests of small states? Do large and powerful states tend to redefine national interest and does this lead to larger openness for the particular world-view of small states? The policy relevance of the project should be seen in the context of the enhanced stakes involved, including the possible larger reverberations of policy mistakes and the creeping irreversibility of increasing commitment in a world order where the large and powerful states increasingly seek to influence world events within rather than outside transnational organizations.



Student of DIR Master Program at internship in UN Headquarters with General Secretary Kofi Annan

Grounded Theory and Empirical Case Studies

Since there is no consensus about the nature of the new world order, this project attempts to use the "grounded theory" approach by focusing upon a few selected case studies which might help to illuminate and conceptualize this particular approach. Thus the intention here is to analyse global governance, transnational institutions and the role of small states in the shaping of the new world order in a cross-cutting manner looking at selected cases from Europe, the Middle East and East Asia.

The criteria for selecting the cases have been: 1) That what is at stake is some kind of global governance or transnational management with a reasonable degree of urgency whether of a short-term or long-term nature. 2) That the attempt of global governance involves transnational institutions to some degree. 3) That the national interests and views of both small states and large powers are at play. 4) That the cases are spread out, making them reasonably representative in a global context.

Globalization, Nationalism and Identity

It focuses on the creation of new political and cultural configurations responses and types of resistance to social chaos and crisis partly as a result of difficulties of nation-states in integrating the world economy.

Jacques Hersh, Johannes Schmidt and Akram Hawas: The Middle East - Between Global Pressure, Local Identity and Nationalism

This research project is based on the assumption that the Middle East as a region of the world with a rich culture and access to important oil reserves, will be restructured and regain a more influential position in international relations.

This problematique is recast in the light of new theoretical approaches emphasizing the re-emergence of civilization as a factor of conflict, and not least due to the political discourse of considering Islam as a new enemy and as a threat to the West after the disappearance of the Communist threat.

International politics has shaped the politics of this region, not only by creating conflictual fronts among the different post-colonial nation-states, but by leaving the Palestinian and the Kurdish people without state-formations. The political elites of the different nation-states have - except for Israel - proven incapable of establishing effective development projects; as an outcome, they exercised repression as a tool of control of their populations.

These two problem areas have among other factors caused the appearance of Islamic Fundamentalism challenging not only the political regimes in each country but also the regional system (the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian peace-process and the embryonic economic co-operation between the countries of the region). Partly due to globalization, the regional and international dimensions of fundamentalism as well as of the previous *national-identified* problems of the Kurds, and the *refugee-identified* problem of the Palestinians are seemingly becoming more and more concretized.

Hypotheses

The object of the investigation is to determine how these different movements often with contradictory ideologies and political frames of references (nationalism, Pan-Arabism, Pan-Kurdish sentiments, Islam as well as Marxism) influence regional politics as well as pose a challenge to the globalization process in the Middle East.

The working hypotheses of the analysis is that without solution to the following problem-areas, no stability will be found. In fact, the impact of these unresolved problems necessitates a restructuring of regional relations:

1. The Palestine problem should be tested not only through the perspective of the establishment of a nation-state, but through the view of the removal of the historical grounds to dispute and more importantly more equal development opportunities for the present protagonists and their people. The analysis will identify the political factors at the local, regional and global levels which can exert influence.

2. The fundamentalist question can not be examined merely through promises of economic reform. Islam's political and cultural potentials cannot be neglected but should be more effectively directed towards forming a regional integration-process based on mutual understanding and through political and more equal economic redistribution. How such a process can find support in the different countries in order to defend such a project from external influences will be examined.

3. An essential examination of the Kurdish problem has to be based not merely on recognition of the Kurdish cultural identity, but equally important on its trans-state and regional dimension, which can only be achieved through regional integration especially between the four countries (Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey). Such an entity would maintain political, economic and identical re-structuring in each of these countries as the way to stability and co-operation.

The **analytical framework** will be based on the newest development of theoretical understanding in the Arabic world and the interaction with Western approaches. At a time when globalization is said to be undermining the potency of nationalism, this research will reintroduce the importance of nationalism in this region of the world, especially as it concerns nationalist movements (Palestinian and Kurdish) fighting for achieving statehood and where existing regimes are actively promoting their national interests -- not only economically but also geopolitically.

In this respect, it should be mentioned that new trends of nationalism in this part of the world, at the time of globalization, is still a relatively "undiscovered" academic field for scholars who have on the one hand to work with concepts developed in a European context as well as with the traditional conceptualizations inherited from the Muslim political culture. It is therefore of significance to investigate similarities as well as differences between European

nationalism and the hybrid form of nationalism which is still in its ascendancy in the Middle East. Globalization may have an influence on the objectives and discourses and practical politics of nationalist movements and states.

One of the intentions of the project is therefore to present and discuss new theoretical conceptualizations which in these years are emerging in the Middle East and may not yet have found their way to the West.

Akram T. Hawas: The Kurdish Question

1) Hegemony and the Kurdish Collapse

This is based on a re-reading of the autonomy experience (1970-1974) in Iraq which ended with the political collapse of the Kurdish revolution in 1975. Here it was assumed that the reason for the collapse was not merely a mechanical outcome of the Iraqi-Iranian agreement regarding Shat el-Arab in 1975, but essentially the result of two interactive factors: *firstly* the Kurds were not able to create a hegemonic structure in the Kurdish areas during the four years of preparing the grounds for the implementation of the autonomy. *Secondly*, neither were they able to create mutual interest-relations with Iran (the regional hegemon) and the US (the world hegemon) in order to assure strategic support. Thus, American and Iranian aids to the Kurds as based on instrumental perspectives related to the security of the Gulf and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

2) The Kurds and the New World Order

This project has been finalized but will continue through a test of the conditions of the Kurds in the aftermath of the Gulf War. The tragedy of the Kurds used to indicate the limitation of the New World Order proclaimed by President Bush. Examining the emergence of the New World Order, the analysis assumed that the Kurds might not expect much, because the essence of the New World Order was related to the strategic changes in the US world hegemony: from a confrontational to stabilizational posture. Thus, what was momentous for the USA was not to create a Kurdish nation-state but a neutralization of the revolutionary trends in the Kurdish Movement while protecting them from further Iraqi aggression.

3) A research project in Arabic: *The Kurdish Question: A Cultural Perspective*

This project is dealing with the misunderstanding of the Kurdish question in the Arab World; do the Kurds have their own culture or they are merely an unintegrated part of the Arabs? Do the Kurds have historic roots in the region or are they outsiders? How does Arab nationalism conceive and deal with the Kurds and the Kurdish question?

Akram T. Hawas: Islamic History

a) *Islam/West: Impacts on the Societal Development in the Middle East*

Methodologically, the frame of reference of this research project takes as its basis the relations state/civil society and its impact on the status of the single citizen and his/her access to resources. In this context, the point is that the Islamic State since the Ummiyah Dynasty has reduced the role of Islam to function as an ideological tool aiming at legitimizing and consolidating the State rather than the Islamization of the society. As Islam offers the conceptual means to create a variant of social democracy in the modern Western terminology, the political sphere abolished or converted these conceptual means, redefining them merely to serve its own domination. On the other hand, in the contemporary nation-state, the structure of the world capitalist system is a vital element in shaping the state/civil society relations. The nation-state in modern Middle East history, being autonomous or representing a certain class, its nature and role are tightly related to the international structure. As an actor within the capitalist world system, the state in the Middle East is bounded to structural commitments, which creates societal disharmony because of the mal-functioning of economic conditions.

This lack of economic capacity restrains the capability of the state to maintain internal hegemony. Thus, coercion become unavoidable not only to maintain the demands of the world system, but also to secure the unity of the society and the viability nation-state.

2) *The Forsaken Norms: Interaction or Dichotomy?*

In this project it is assumed that there is an increasing dichotomy between Islam as a set of norms and the social reality in Muslim societies, where Islamic norms have experienced an extensive transformation from superior, non-achievable values onto pragmatic reachable objectives. What is called Islamic in social relations is seen to be a re-interpretation of the

religious norms in the context of what can be achieved. This transformation of these norms has partly eroded the possibility for development in these Muslim societies.



The emergence of Islamic and Jewish fundamentalism – new identities and new conflicts

Akram T. Hawas: Regional Perspectives

1) Egypt at a Crossroad: Between Internal Societal Challenges and Regional Hegemonic Ambitions

This PhD dissertation is about the development problematique in Egypt: The aim is to analyze the impacts of the economic as well as the ideological and political aspects of the development issue in general. More specifically, the analysis focuses on the interaction between the internal dynamics and the international restrictions imposed by the world system. The analytical method is based on the Gramscian hegemonic approach to both internal and international development. In other words the interaction between the regime's attempt to control domestic politics and the leadership role it is trying to play in the Middle East.

2) Towards A Trans-State Hegemonic Peace Settlement

The Interaction Between Nationalism and Islamism in the Kurdish Movement

The assumption is that the nature of the Kurdish problem is not a clear cut inter-nation conflict but is in fact of a cultural civilizational nature; the reason is that whereas the limits of the Kurdish nation is clear between the Kurds and the Arabs in Iraq and Syria, and between

the Kurds and Turks in Turkey, these limits are not clear in the case of Iran where the edges are less visible due to cultural and civilizational commonality. Thus, this project has the **general objective** of *testing the extent of a New Rationality within the Kurdish Movement: that is, the interaction between Nationalism and Islamism as well as its actual and future impacts on intra-state and regional trans-state co-operative/conflictual relations.*

The specific **objectives** of this analysis are: *Firstly*, to explore new theoretical tools to comprehend as well as develop new methods to analyze the Kurdish problem. *Secondly*, to explore the role of indigenous trans-ethnic co-existence experiences, and *finally*, to explore non-traditional trans-state regional hegemonic peace-strategies.

3) *The New Alliance of Turkey and Israel: Is it a course towards a new division of the Middle East?*

This research project is built on an assumption, that on the national level, the alliance is projecting the nature of intra-social and political relations in Israeli and Turkish societies. Undoubtedly both societies are experiencing severe divisions; in Israel because of the peace-process, and in Turkey because of the relations to Islam and the West. The new military alliance could be seen as projecting the globalization of national crises or in other words a rational attempt to solve domestic social, economic and political crises within a regional network. Consequently military power experiences an essential transformation in its nature from self-defence to a guarantor for economic expansionism.

Feiwei Kupferberg: Global Democratization and Ethnic Violence

The main idea of the project is the paradox that global democratization in some cases has led to an upsurge of ethnic hatred and violence, rather than to the peaceful management of conflicts which democracy in theory is so good at. How is this paradox to be explained? What effects does democratization have upon the management of ethnic conflicts in the overall context of "global democratization"?

In order to answer this question, three problems have to be investigated in detail:

- a) How are conflicts in deeply divided societies regulated in general, that is how does one stop ethnic groups from killing each other?

- b) What are the differences between the way ethnic conflicts are regulated in authoritarian respectively democratic societies, that is what options are open for authoritarian rule and what options are open for democratic rule?
- c) If a deeply divided society is deprived of its authoritarian options of ethnic regulations it must establish a democratic consensus about one of the possible democratic options for ethnic regulation. What are the conditions for creating that consensus and what happens if the consensus is imposed from the outside, rather than having grown "organically" from within?

This takes us to the problem of the possible impact of "global democratization" upon ethnic violence. With global democratization I mean a process which does not primarily emerge from democratization brought about by internal social forces, but which mainly comes about due to changes in international relations.

Democratization in the eighties and nineties often came about as a result of global rearrangement of social, political and cultural forces, rather than due to an "organic" change from within. A possible but underinvestigated effect could be the destabilizing of the hidden "ethnic contract" or arrangement for regulating ethnic conflicts under an authoritarian regime. Since no new ethnic contract has been negotiated, which might be workable under democratic conditions, the result might well be an upsurge of ethnic violence. Lack of regulation, produces "spontaneous" management of ethnic conflicts.

In order to test this hypothesis, I want to compare a number of cases in different regions in the world. The idea is to hold the cultural-regional dimension constant, while varying the factor of external-internal impact. If my hypothesis is correct, this would mean that democratization lacking internal "back-up", that is democratization which has mainly come about due to impact of global forces/changes in international relations, would all things being equal produce a higher amount of ethnic violence, than in those cases where the balance is in favour of "organic" forces of democratization.

Feiwel Kupferberg: The Revival of GDR- Identity after Unification: East German Professionals, Public Commitments and Biographical Investments

The main problem of the project is the revival of GDR-identity after unification and how it is to be explained. The theoretical framework is the symbolic-interactionist and

phenomenological interpretation of biographically shaped life trajectories in the context of historical changes on the macro level. Methodologically the study is based upon biographical interviews with three samples: Part of a study on East German school teachers in Berlin-Brandenburg and Saxony by Berlin-Brandenburger Institut für sozialwissenschaftliche Studien, a study on graduates from a Secondary level, stage II (EOS) in East Berlin, a graduate class from 1963 by students Aalborg University and a study on the East German intelligentsia by the Max-Planck-Institut für Bildungsforschung. The explanatory model focuses upon the relation between public commitments to the socialist state and biographical investments in professional careers.

The study is a continuation of the project Micro-foundations of Societal Transformations: East German Professional Identities in Transition.



Anne Showstack Sassoon lecturing on Political culture and Gramscian approaches during the conference "Globalization and Social Change" in May 1997

Feiwei Kupferberg: Creativity Abroad. The Biographical Experience and Cultural Impact of Expatriates and Refugees

The main idea of this project is to look at the potential creativity-enhancing aspects of intellectual migration. Two main types of intellectual migration are focused upon: Expatriates (voluntary migration) and refugees (involuntary migration). The focus is both upon the biographical experience of these migrants and their cultural impact upon the host society. The theoretical framework of the study has been presented in the article "Creativity Abroad: Migrants, Strangers and Travellers" in *Archives Européennes de Sociologie*, vol. 39, no.1 (1998): 179 - 206 and the working paper "Problematic Belonging. Exile and Creative Imagination."

The project is mainly of a theoretical kind. The cases I am looking at are a) The role of the expatriate experience in the emergence of literary and artistic modernism b) The cultural impact of intellectual migration in German-speaking Mittel Europa c) The biographical experience and cultural impact of German refugee scholars in America

Feiwei Kupferberg: Meaning-systems and Social Order. Coping with the Past in Post-war Germany

The main idea of this project is to study "Vergangenheitsbewältigung" from a sociological point of view. At the center of the study are the following problems: What kind of meaning-systems did emerge in Germany after the collapse of Hitler's Germany and how did these meaning-systems shape the political and socio-economic order in the two Germanies? What changes took place in the social structures in these two orders and how were these structures influenced by the underlying meaning-systems and competing orders? What kind of after-effects did this meaning-based division of Germany have upon the problems of communication between the two Germanies after reunification?

The theoretical frame-work of the model is the phenomenological sociology of Peter Berger and the praxeological sociology of Pierre Bourdieu. Methodologically, the focus is upon the family history approach introduced by Gabriele Rosenthal in Germany and Dan Baron in their biographical interviews with Nazi- families and families of Holocaust-survivors.

Ellen Brun: Sustainable Priorities - The Case of Double Rationality

With point of departure in an understanding of the existing global crisis, the project assumes a need for reorientation of society. In the attempt to formulate alternatives we face an additional problem, namely the breakdown of traditional norms characteristic of modernity. In other words, we have no clearly defined common value system capable of leading us in areas of politics, culture, technology, etc. or which might serve to facilitate meaningful dialogue within our own culture or between cultures.

The project operates with the hypothesis that within the sphere of close human relations, the symbolically 'female' space, some norms are through history reproduced as they relate to human survival. These, partly pre-linguistic, embodied values constitute the basis of a normative rationality, different from that of the surrounding society. It constitutes a different and invisible

'cosmology' - a reservoir of alternative thought and practice. The latter emerges as a new synthesis based on 'double rationality', namely the clash between the historical heritage of 'Gemeinschaft', or the sphere of close human relations on the one hand, and the modern rationality of the system world, on the other. The concept of double rationality is developed through a discussion and critique of different themes: the concept of rationality, of time, the culture of care, and the sense of economy.

The project is multipurpose. On the one hand there is an attempt to make visible a normatively based rationality concretely embedded in existing everyday practice: A practically, lived experience. This endeavour is important for our ability to carry out socially acceptable change. This may also contribute to rethink the ongoing ethical debate.

Through a critical discussion of the concept of culture, the project will attempt to demonstrate the existence of a different, invisible sphere of rationality which forms the basis and precondition of manifest culture, and which to some extent constitutes its anti-thesis.

The project is divided into (1) a theoretical part, (2) an explanatory, discussing part, (3) a practical (value-related, action-oriented) part. The empirical focus is Denmark, in a global context.

Johannes Schmidt: The Middle East Between Agony and Progress: Towards a New Palestine

A new theory seems to have entered the world of conflict resolution with the Middle East Peace Process entering its post-Oslo accord phase - peace didn't break out and an end to the conflict has yet to be resolved. It bespeaks the mystery of how longstanding conflicts are resolved but also why the Israeli-Palestinian confrontation seems intractable. The wide differences in needs and expectations divide the two contracting parties. Israel needs security and stability and the Palestinians need support for a new Palestinian state. This project considers the geostrategic reality by focusing on the balance of forces impinging on the region, the way in which the region relates to external powers, and the configuration of forces within Israel and the Occupied Territories.

Globalization, Technology and Society

Globalization is characterized by a process which is both relying and spreading technology. This of course affects the development of societies. But this is an uneven evolution whereby

some societies are at the top of the ladder while most countries of the Third World have difficulties keeping up with the changes and their rapidity. Such societies are faced with the prospects of having to adapt to the technological criteria of the developed economies or evolve local technological capacity whereby offering some form of societal resistance to globalization.

Jens Müller and Pernille Bertelsen: Indigenous Systems of Innovation in East Africa

The overall objectives of the Project are to

- highlight the dynamism of selected indigenous systems of innovation in rural Tanzania;
- explicate possible policy interventions which may facilitate a mobilisation of technological knowledge and organisational capabilities of indigenous artisans;
- contribute to a changed theoretical paradigm in technology studies in developing countries.



Village blacksmiths making an essential farm implement in rural Tanzania, and indigenous art sculpture

State of the Art in Technology Studies

We shall relate to the general development research agenda which is attempting to uncover the impact of the globalization and structural adjustment processes presently at work. A particular focus of relevance for the project is the institutional setting of production, e.g. the distinction between the formal and the informal sector mentioned above.

Methodological Approach

A central working hypothesis is that, what we call, the indigenous systems of innovation have been arrested. The formal and informal systems of innovation are too far apart and not matching adequately to provide an expedient synergy.

The Systems of Innovation perspective shall be the main analytical frame of reference. So far this has mainly be applied to industrialised countries. We intend to join in with attempts of its systematic application to LDCs. Selected technologies of indigenous origin will be studied and related to selected local geographical areas.

Historical evidence of the formation of the local systems of innovation under study will be collected in order to bring forward an understanding of the dynamics or otherwise of these systems. The guiding research questions will be: What learning processes were and are reproducing or changing the indigenous systems of innovation?

The project will be implemented in three inter-linked parts. Part 1 will take its point of departure in an indigenous technology which has been relatively less investigated than others, i.e. boat building at Lake Victoria. Part 2 is a countrywide survey of an indigenous technology which was thoroughly investigated some 20 years ago, i.e. village blacksmithing. Some of these of blacksmith groups will be re-visited in order to record what changes have taken place, and to explain how these changes was initiated. Part 3 will be a subsequent attempt to join the two first sub-projects in a synthesis trying to answer the Projects' general research questions.

Background

The overall picture of the African continent is said to be one of political and economical deterioration. Yet, signs of promising social change in various countries are at hand; and the contours of an alternative development paradigm seem to be under way in African social science research.

Thus, rather than subscribing to the widespread sentiments of "Afro-pessimism", the present research project intends to focus on some of the embryonic socially progressive change processes in sight. We shall seek in-depth insight into some of these, in search of possibly already existing alternatives to conventional modernization interventions.

The pessimists tend to forget that large parts of economic exchange and other social activities in the expanding informal sector escape statistical recording. But more serious, the

African continent is perceived as one homogeneous (poor) social formation, by and large leading to one "blue-print" structural adjustment solution only.

Problem Focus

Consequently, significant variations in local social and productive potentials within the individual countries are thereby being disregarded and not considered in whatever policy making there is.

Whereas the value of informal sector which is praised by many observers for its employment and income generation, *its potential for innovation in technology and marketing*, and its flexibility to respond to new consumer needs, has not been recognized by African governments.

The technologies applied in the informal sector are most often referred to as "simple". *Yet, these technologies are the basis for the up-keep of an increasing portion of the ever increasing populations.* Our purpose is to identify and uncover selected samples of these technologies and then seek answers to the following questions:

- * What are the contents and driving forces of the underlying learning and innovation processes which brings forward these technologies?
- * Are we witnessing a technological evolutionary process or do we see technological involution?
- * To what extent are the core of the technologies of indigenous origin, of extraneous derivation, or mixes of both? What direction is the possible mix taking?
- * What pattern of diversification in the production of goods and services is emerging?
- * How could public policies be shaped to create an enabling environment which may facilitate a mobilization of the technological knowledge and organizational capabilities of the indigenous technologists?

We shall concentrate our search on the rural informal sector in East Africa, notably Tanzania.

Theoretical Framework

Our starting point will be insights from contemporary development research. However we intend to merge these general theoretical perspectives with recent technology studies accomplished within the conceptual framework called Systems-of-Innovation.

This approach views technological development as a socially conditioned interactive learning process, and incremental innovations make up the back-bone of progress. It includes inter alia institutions, structure of production, infrastructures and actors.

This will be integrated with our own mainly technologist inspired technology research, which for arguments sake we call the Technology-Analysis approach (Müller 1991).

In short, the theoretical aspiration of the present research program is to contribute eventually to a changed paradigm in technology studies and to merge it with the study of recent development paradigms.

Working Hypotheses

The following selected issues are seen as both causes and effects of the problems.

- (i) *Weak national Systems of Innovation*: The capacity of most African countries to change their technologies in accordance with ever changing social conditions is not satisfying the need for reproduction, let alone improvement, of the living conditions of the majority of population.
- (ii) *Arrested indigenous systems of innovation*: Structural conditions did and do not allow sufficient deployment and accumulation of indigenous skills, knowledge and interactive learning processes. The formal and informal Systems of Innovation are too far apart and not matched adequately to provide any useful synergy.
- (iii) Qualitative change in *the institutional setting and the physical infrastructure* is an important condition for strengthening the national systems of innovation, including deployment of the arrested indigenous technological capabilities.

Mona Dahms: Africa joining the 'Information Society' - investigating the Need for Telecentres in Rural Tanzania

Project Aims and Objectives

The project aims to contribute to the theories on the relationship between access to information and communication and rural development. Specific objectives are to contribute to enhanced usability¹ of modern information and communication equipment for rural

¹ Usability is defined as '...the effectiveness, efficiency and satisfaction with which specified users can achieve specified goals in particular environments.' (ISO DIS 9241-11)

development, and to help develop guidelines for the establishment of telecentres in rural Africa.



Alternative communication

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Background

Sub-Saharan Africa is the least developed area in the world in terms of information and communication services not to mention human development. The average number of telephone lines per 100 inhabitants is 0.43, compared to 49 in industrialised countries and many rural areas have no communication services at all. Although Internet has spread rapidly throughout the African continent this service is only available in urban areas.

With the development in wireless communication technology this situation can now be changed. One strategy for universal access to communication services adopted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the establishment of 'multipurpose community telecentres' (MCT), a physical location with shared information and communication service facilities, ranging from a simple telephone to Internet access, desk-top publishing equipment, telefax machines etc.

Denmark was one of the first countries to establish such MCTs, called "telecottages", in rural areas and on small islands. The main purpose of these centres was the education and training of the local community. The idea in this project is to draw on the Danish experience in the establishment of MCTs in rural Tanzania.

State of the Art

At present, pilot projects for MCTs are being negotiated and implemented in a number of developing countries (mostly under the auspices of ITU) while in South Africa the Universal Service Agency (USA) has started 6 centres and has plans to implement many more. One pilot project is planned in Sengerema District, Tanzania, in partnership between ITU, UNESCO/Danida, Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTEC), Tanzania Telecommunication Company Limited (TTCL) and other stakeholders. Many of the projects are 'supply-driven', i.e. decisions on which equipment to install in the centre have been made beforehand.

Research Focus

The focus of the proposed research is summarised in the following problem formulation:

What are the needs felt by rural people in Tanzania for information and communication which may enhance sustainable development for a better livelihood?

To which degree is the usability of modern information and communication technology sufficient to fulfil such needs?

Apart from the overall research questions in the problem formulation, the project will aim at answering the following **sub-questions**:

1. What are the indigenous information and communication patterns in any selected rural location of Tanzania? Who communicates with whom and about what? Where and when does the communication take place? How is the communication being conducted? What is the purpose of the communication?
2. What are the indigenous social, economic, political and cultural structures and organisations in the community? What means of livelihood do people have at their disposal? Who has access to and control over natural resources and financial means?
3. What is the existing indigenous technological capacity in the community? Who has technical skills and competence? Who has education? In which way can existing

technological capacity be enhanced to cater to the operation and maintenance of information and communication technology (ICT)?

Answers to the above questions - each of which calls for a complete study in its own right - will be sought to an extent relevant to the next two questions:

4. In what way will installed ICT equipment effect the community with respect to the above-mentioned aspects as well as to other aspects of importance to the community? What intended and unintended effects are found? What positive and negative effects are found? Does the equipment contribute to sustainable development in the rural community?
5. In which ways can ICT equipment be modified to better suit the needs and demands of rural communities? Can the selected equipment be modified so as to be assimilated by the community? Should new equipment be developed?

Methodology

The overall research design is a micro-level case study, designed as a pre-test/post-test study which will be undertaken - if possible - together with similar studies carried out in a few control sites where no ICT equipment will be installed, for control of factors (other than the installation of ICT) influencing development.

The theoretical point of departure for the socio-economic baseline study and the impact studies will be the theory on cultural development proposed by Professor Hans Gullestrup, Aalborg University (AAU). This theory will be merged with the theories on technology analysis, transfer of technology and technological capacity, developed by the Research Group International Technology Planning (ITP), Faculty of Engineering and Science, AAU. Since both human development and technological development can be perceived as socially conditioned and interactive learning processes, the recent conceptual framework of Systems of Innovation, hitherto mainly applied to industrialised countries, will also be introduced and applied.

The field research must necessarily be based upon participatory research methods such as Participatory Rural Assessment/Participatory Learning methods. Care will be taken to include all different categories of potential and actual users and non-users of ICT equipment.

Social categories such as gender, age and ethnicity will be considered, where applicable. A combination of qualitative and quantitative methods of collection of information will be applied.

Key indicators for the impact of ICT are not well developed, therefore this research will attempt to make a contribution to the work performed by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, on development of relevant indicators. Also, the current quantitative indicators of telecommunications penetration are not particularly appropriate for African conditions, therefore development of new indicators will be part of the project.

Relevance, Contacts and Dissemination

The project is relevant to current research on the impact of globalization: What happens when a rural African society 'joins the Information Society'? Further, it is relevant to an ongoing research project 'Indigenous Systems of Innovation in East Africa', funded by Danida's Research Council for Development Research and carried out by researchers from ITP. It is also relevant to current efforts in Tanzania -supported by Danida - of providing an enabling environment for self-employment and entrepreneurship in the private informal sector: Can modern ICT act as a catalyst for such development?

International research cooperation - with the aim of broadening the collective sum of knowledge on telecentres and their impact on development in rural Africa - has been secured with the following institutions and organisations: The University of Witswatersrand, South Africa; The Acacia Project of IDRC, Canada; ITU; COSTEC; TTCL; Department of Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Institute for Development Research, Faculty of Social Science, University of Dar es Salaam.

Three project seminars are planned with the international project partners, and project results will be presented at international conferences; a total of 3 Ph.D.-theses are foreseen in connection with the project.

Institutional Affiliation

The project is located in Department of Communication Technology, Faculty of Engineering and Science, AAU. It is part of the research programme "Technology Capacity Formation in International Perspective" of the ITP. The ITP group is a member of the Research Centre on Development and International Relations, AAU and is also a member of the network on

“Globalization and Private Sector Development in Africa”, managed through the Centre for Development Research, Copenhagen.

Mona Dahms: Entrepreneurial Engineers - Engineering Education and Private Sector Development

Introduction: This project - which is not in a strict sense a research project - is based upon collaboration between Faculty of Engineering (FoE), University of Dar es Salaam and Faculty of Engineering and Science (FoES), Aalborg University, in the field of technology - society studies and - possibly later on research.

Long-term objectives of the project are:

- to enhance and improve Tanzania's private sector production, i.e. by enabling the formal and informal sectors to interact, resulting in mutually beneficial synergy
- to enable the FoE graduates to play an active role in the sustainable technological development of Tanzania
- to enhance the research capacity at FoE within the area of technology and society

Intermediary objectives concerning the curriculum reform (Phase 2) are:

- to enable graduates from FoE to apply knowledge about the relationships between social and technological development in their professional work
- to train engineers capable of navigating in the rapidly changing Tanzanian society in a flexible and innovative manner
- to train a certain yearly number of technology-planners who are capable of interdisciplinary thinking
- to improve the observed gender imbalance amongst the students and academic staff at FoE.

Immediate objectives of the first phase of the project are:

- to provide sufficient and relevant information about the impact of the output of the FoE on the formal and informal systems of production
- to reveal the needs for technical and engineering qualifications in society, specifically within the informal sector

Background: At present the unemployment rate among graduates from FoE is rather high - in spite of the fact that technically trained manpower is badly needed in Tanzania. Some of the reasons for this contradiction are that the teaching at FoE is supply-driven rather than demand-driven and that links between FoE and the society are rather weak, FoE having no knowledge about the demands of society for engineering skills and qualifications. Another problem is the very low female participation rate among students and staff at FoE.

Project plan: The first phase of the project would be to carry out studies of the relationship between Tanzanian society at large and FoE. The second phase includes curriculum development and reform, with focus on the enhancement of interdisciplinarity and entrepreneurial and non-technical skills. A third phase includes staff development and the execution of pilot courses, while a fourth phase will include research capacity building in the field of technology and society, alongside with consolidation of the teaching capacity within the developed curriculum.

Peter Benjamin: Informatics for Community Development: Evaluating the impact of Telecentres in South Africa

Currently there is a great deal of work in South Africa on promoting Telecentres as a vehicle for allowing access to telecommunications for all in the country. There are many Telecentres and related projects in the country, and they are attracting considerable public and private financing. However, there is no existing model in the country of how a telecentre should work, or even how the success of a telecentre should be measured. This leads to a fear of money being wasted and expectations being dashed.

This is the area of this PhD. The aim is to develop a methodology for evaluating the success of a telecentre, and through applying this methodology learn some initial indicators that can help with policy development in this field.

Steen Seierup: Urban Economic Activities in East Africa

This project is a continuation of a research project commenced in 1989 and finalised with a PhD dissertation in 1996: Networks of enterprises and entrepreneurs in small and intermediate urban centres in Kenya. The new research project continues in a number of ways the earlier project, but the geographical area of interest has been extended to also include Tanzania and Uganda, and the focus in urban size will also be extended to include larger towns.

The research issues deals with economic activities and the intention is to investigate the social and institutional conditions for economic development. One research issues is the relations between particular economic activities, or vocations, and the social and spatial characteristics of the involved agents' household and families' livelihood (which do also include questions on urban-rural links, trends and changes in social structures and in individual life trajectories, mutual implications between urban economic activities and rural-urban household relations, etc.). A second research issue deals with the social and institutional framework for changes in the economic activities in urban areas, with a focus on the role of different forms of vocational and urban organisations and institutions for the technological and economic development. A third and final research issue is the socio-economic development of small towns over time, with particular emphasis on socio-economic and technological changes and developments.

Steen Seierup: Transfer of Cleaner Environment Equipment and Knowledge to South East Asia

The intentions with the project is to investigate donor-receiver relations in the transfer of environmental knowledge and equipment from Denmark (and other countries) to respectively Thailand and Malaysia. The projects research issues deals with the double national context, or framework, influencing projects based on the transfer of a mixture of environmental perceptions, knowledge and techniques.

The project's intention is to look at these national 'frameworks' as fields, consisting of relations between individuals, techniques and institutions, and investigate differences and similarities in how internal factors in the national fields influences the transfer process. Another research issue, is related to the learning processes involved in the transfer of environment equipment and knowledge, and the perceptual questions involved in questioning and changing existing environmental practices.

The project will start in 1999 with a number of exploratory case studies, and proceed over the next 3-4 years combining theoretical studies on learning and environmental practices, with empirical studies in Denmark, Thailand and Malaysia.

Globalization, Environment and the Ecological Challenge

While the globalization process has given priority to the liberalization of economic activities and reduced political institutional interferences, recent awareness of the environmental and ecological costs of this evolution has put this relationship on the international agenda. Likewise, initiatives are being taken at the local level whereby political actors and communities are looking at possible solutions. This involves social and political processes which need to be researched so that the experience of existing initiatives may contribute and encourage a "learning from each other" process on the international scale.

By combining an expertise in environmental economics, management and planning with a long-term interest in local activism and social movements, we focus on the points of contention and controversy between the quest for a sustainable development and broader public concerns for democracy, participation, and equity. Must the environment be saved by putting in place new hierarchical relations and new forms of inequality; or can the efforts to meet the environmental challenges posed by globalization serve to inspire new forms of local democracy and active public involvement in technological and other environmental projects?

Andrew Jamison and Klaus Lindegaard: Globalization and the Environmental Challenge

Whatever other impacts globalization has had on the contemporary world, there can be no denying that the increasingly globalized world economy has had a number of very serious consequences for the natural environment. A range of new environmental problems - climate change, threatened biodiversity, tropical forest devastation, cross-border pollution - have gained public attention, at the same time as new transnational alliances and networks - both corporate, intergovernmental and non-governmental - have emerged in order to deal with them. But in this as in so many other respects, there are at least two different kinds of social processes at work in meeting the environmental challenges of globalization.

On the one hand, there are the "top-down" or technocratic approaches, favored by policy-makers and corporate leaders in the North, who see new business opportunities and export markets in relation to environmental improvements. Particularly important in this regard is the doctrinal shift that has taken place throughout the OECD countries toward

sustainable development and "ecological modernization" and the emphasis being given to so-called cleaner technologies and preventive principles in environmental research and development, both nationally and internationally. Important new actors, like the Business Council for Sustainable Development, and reformed old actors, like the World Bank, are seeking to professionalize these activities, and thereby deal with the environmental challenge by means of normal business and management practices.

Counterpoised and often opposed to these top-down approaches are a range of new grass-roots initiatives that have responded to the environmental challenge, primarily at the local level. Particularly in relation to the UN Conference on Environment and Development that was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, there has been a flurry of activity throughout the world to effectuate the Agenda 21 that was agreed upon at the conference, involving a broadening of public participation in environmental policy-making and a variety of efforts to increase environmental awareness in society at large. Recently, the rapid development of environmentally-friendly or ecological products has also been noticeable, with major implications for consumer behavior, life-styles, and changing cultural values, both in the North but also in the South. A range of new global grass-roots alliances have emerged, in relation to environmental problems, which often oppose the efforts to impose Northern solutions on the developing countries of the South.

There is thus a series of conflicts over the environmental challenges that have appeared in the wake of globalization. This conflictual approach is central to the research that is conducted within our cluster. By combining an expertise in environmental economics, management and planning with a long-term interest in local activism and social movements, we focus on the points of contention and controversy between the quest for a sustainable development and broader public concerns for democracy, participation, and equity. Must the environment be saved by putting in place new hierarchical relations and new forms of inequality; or can the efforts to meet the environmental challenges posed by globalization serve to inspire new forms of local democracy and active public involvement in technological and other environmental projects?



Degrading the environment - the cost of growth?

Andrew Jamison and Eskild Holm Nielsen: Public Participation and Environmental Science and Technology Policy Options in Asia (PESTO-Asia)

The PESTO project has been conducted during 1996-1998 in eight European countries, as part of the European Union's program in targeted socio-economic research (TSER). The project has consisted of three main parts, historical, political and sociological, the one presenting the role of the public in national sustainable development programs, the second identifying and problematizing the various elements of public participation in the various programs, and the third mapping new networks of innovation on both the national and transnational levels. The aim in the new program is to extend the PESTO project into Asia, in particular, China, Vietnam and Thailand, by focusing on the issue of public participation and environmental science and technology development.

In Vietnam, we expect to collaborate with Bach Tan Sinh, who received a PhD at Aalborg University in the area of environmental impact assessment. Sinh is responsible for international research at the National Institute for Science and Technology Policy and Strategy Studies (NISTPASS), and has been involved in a UNDP project on the integration of environmental concern into investment planning in Vietnam. He has also taken part in an Asian study group on Agenda 21.

Klaus Lindegaard: Public Alliances and Participation in Sustainable Development Strategies for Central America (PAP-SUDESCA)

The SUDESCA project is an ongoing joint research project between Centro Internacional de Política Económica para el Desarrollo Sostenible (CINPE), Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica and IKE & Centre for Environment and Development, Aalborg University, Denmark. The

project includes research collaboration with Escuela de Economía, Universidad de El Salvador, Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo (FUNDE), El Salvador and Escuela de Economía Agrícola (ESECA), Universidad Autónoma de Nicaragua (UNAN).

CINPE is an interdisciplinary research centre comprising three research groups: Trade, Integration and International Finance; Labour, Distribution and Human Resources; and Environmental Change, Innovation and Valuation of Natural Resources. Responsible for the Masters Program in Economic Policy for Central America and the Caribbean.

The SUDESCA project aims at the enhancement of the Central American research capacity within the areas of systems of innovation analysis and the implementation of cleaner technology. The project includes a PhD program on the economics of technological and institutional change and is financed by the ENRECA program (Enhancement of Research Capacity in Developing Countries) of Danida (Danish International Development Assistance), Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The PAP-SUDESCA project emphasizes the role of public movements and environmental NGO's together with local communities and public servants in the implementation of the ALIDES program in Central America. ALIDES is the Central American alliance for sustainable development, which was agreed by the countries in 1994 with the aim of promoting sustainable development at the regional level. The project will be carried out in collaboration with Central American researchers participating in the SUDESCA project.

Globalization, Social Welfare, Labour and Participatory Systems

One of the most important characteristics of macrosocio-economic in all countries has been the linkage between increasing demands for public social welfare and democratization and the hegemonic discourse of the political elites which are adjusting to an international environment of competitive austerity.

Structural adjustment of the domestic social structure of accumulation to the globalization discourse of neoliberalism takes on different forms in different countries and contexts. Equally related are the social "fall-outs" of the policies which aim at being incorporated in the world economy.

The projects under this heading all reflect peculiarities which can be observed in as different societies as those of Southeast Asia to Greenland.

Even a country as isolated from the formal world market, as Myanmar (Burma) participates in the global accumulation process through the opium trade. A country like Thailand has achieved economic growth by exporting the nation's natural resources and cheap light industrial goods. Thailand has also found a niche and source of income in sex-tourism and export of prostitutes. For late-comers to the world economy, like Vietnam and Laos, there is much to learn from the examples of their Southeast Asian neighbours. In Laos an intensive education movement has been set in motion by the authorities in order to bring skills and qualifications to the ethnic minorities in order to prepare them for the labour market and greater integration in the world economy. Interestingly, in this context of adjustment some experimenting with participatory and labour-managed systems can be observed and studied. Significantly some of these are taking place in the United States itself.

A most important question facing social sciences is whether the process of globalization leads to greater social welfare or whether the neoliberal discourse will succeed in reducing the social achievements of twentieth century capitalism.

Research Projects

Susanne Thorbek: Prostitution in a Global Context

Transnational prostitution has increased over the last twenty years. This is the case both for customers, mainly men, who travel to poor countries in order to buy sexual satisfaction, and for prostitutes, mainly women, who migrate legally or illegally to rich countries.

Material and research on transnational prostitution in Europe is fairly limited, but there is an increasing public and political interest and great insecurity on how to approach the problem.

The aim of the project is to investigate transnational prostitution in Denmark and Thailand, seen in a global context. Research will explore the way in which concepts, notions and policies related to prostitution have developed in the two countries. The changes in concepts, notions and policies related to prostitution will be investigated in relation to concepts, notions, policies on sexuality and gender and when relevant, concepts of race and

class. This approach is inspired by international research, which has shown the interplay between these notions/concepts in the last 100 years in Europe and USA. The impact of this history in the late-modern societies will be treated.

The three objectives of the projects are

- a. Make an empirical analysis of transnational prostitution with focus on Denmark and Thailand.
- b. Analyse how concepts, notions and policies related to prostitution have developed in the Western world and in Denmark in the last 100 years. How the notions on prostitution have been intertwined with notions and concepts of sexuality and gender, and also with race and class. Notions, concepts and policies related to Asia (Thailand) will prevail.
- c. Analyse how notions, concepts and policies on prostitution have developed in Thailand in the same period, interlinked with concepts, notions and policies on sexuality and gender and other relevant categories.

a. The empirical analysis.

The empirical analysis will be concerned with the situation today.

The structural factors of importance for the growth of the sex-business will be studied such as the new intensified globalization which involves centralisation as well as localisation and the impact of this on the international and the gender division of labour. The global policies such as stationing of military personal, stationing of many single men abroad, the development policy of tourism and policies on migration. These structural features will be covered mainly by utilising existing work by different scholars.

The study of "Trafficking", of international networks among the traders of prostitution and other clandestine work or goods will for security reasons be limited and may mainly be built on the testimonies of the victims, the women as well as children and men who are traded.

Empirical material on prostitutes and customers will cover the two groups both in prostitution in Thailand and tourist resorts and other relevant sites and the two groups in Denmark at massage parlours, bars and perhaps escort-services.²

The methods used in gathering information will be qualitative interviews, life stories, maybe correspondence and participant observation.

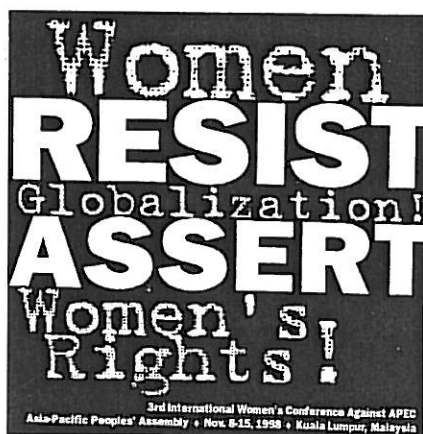
² According to the Pro-Centre in Copenhagen, only few Thai prostitutes work in the streets

When collecting material, a Thai research-assistant will be needed or at least a Thai-speaking translator, as most prostitutes have a weak grasp of English (or Danish)³

A male researcher will be a great advantage in the research. The empirical analysis will result in an analysis of prostitution seen from the perspective of customers and prostitutes (maybe owners and middlemen) and analysed in the light of the concepts and policies as these have been explored in the two other analysis b. and c.

Societies, categories, policies have changed radically in the last 100 years. Meanings are deployed to other areas, the sexual revolution in the Western countries has changed areas of legitimacy, human rights talk deny race as an important category. At the same time however the past seems still to be influential in the stubborn survival of the idea of social evolution, in the notions of sexual availability of women from poor countries/other races, notions of a free, uninhibited sexuality in other countries and white mastery and power.

The exploration of changes in the concepts, notions and policies on prostitution in Denmark, seen in relation to concepts of sexuality and gender, and in relation to concepts of race (especially Asian) and class will be done by analysing selected periods and studying scientific as well as cultural works (novels, films) and travellers' reports. A provisional choice of periods may be the twenty years around 1900, the 1930s, the 1950s and the 1980s/90s.



Women are half of the sky!

b. Thai constructions of prostitution seen in relation to constructions of sexuality and gender and other relevant categories.

³ Own experience and A.L. Kongstad, Pro-Centre Copenhagen

Thailand is interesting in this project for several reasons. First if a double analysis of prostitution is needed it is necessary to limit the analysis to a selected country. If prostitutes from all the countries who migrate to Europe (Denmark) and the sex-business in the countries in question were to be studied the analysis would be built on our notions and thus repeat the research strategies - that has been so strongly criticised by feminists and post-colonialist researchers - which only see a European or Western perspective and generalise this to the whole world and. It would not be possible to analyse all the countries from where prostitutes come to Denmark.

Secondly, Thailand is interesting because Denmark has had links with the country since the first advisers were sent to the Royal Court in the former century and H. N. Andersen build his East trading company (OEK) at the beginning of this century.

Thirdly, Thailand's kin-system has always been and still is different from the corresponding Danish or European types. In the villages, bi-lateral inheritance and matri-local residence have been widespread. This meant that a new husband would move to his wife's village or part of the village and grow the fields of his father-in-law (and probably sell his own land and buy new property in the new area). He would give a bride-price to his wife or her family (and still did in 1981 in the slum area of Khlong Toey in Bangkok). This was explained by the women as follows: My mother and father have brought me up, they should be compensated for this when I marry. And daughters more generally contribute to their parents' household especially before their own marriage but often also during the parents' old age.

This is related to the "naturalness" of women's work. In agriculture women have been perceived as working in the fields; this cultural perception meant that as late as 1968 Thailand was the country in the world with the highest female participation in the labour force. Women thus have a responsibility and are expected to work. In the 19th century men would do "corvee labour" for the King (or nobles) and women would manage the home and the fields in this period (up to 6 months). Surnames were not used before the immigration of Chinese men. Women still have room for latitude.

However historically the King had a harem (and some modern politicians are also known to have had harems), many men especially from the higher classes had several wives and many men still have a mistress (mia noi). Skrobaneck shows that at the turn of the century old texts where the dangers of sexuality were stressed and were influential in shaping

Northern peasants beliefs. Brothels have existed since 1900. Thitsa, Truong tan-dam and others argue that Buddhist texts consider women less spiritual but more mundane than men; they are farther from karma, and the difference between the status and conditions of monks and nuns is indeed great.

Skrobaneck argues that the penetration of commodification into family and kinship relations is strong also in villages in the North and NorthEast and the economic possible benefits (coupled with lack of knowledge of conditions and dangers) are of paramount importance for prostitutes and their relatives.

For the traders, recruiters and international networks the business and the profits are of course the important determinants. Money can create social status and prestige both in Thailand and in Denmark.

The development and changes in the policies, concepts and notions of prostitution, sexuality and gender in the late modern Thai society should be studied by searching both anthropological knowledge and modern village studies and representations of gender, sexuality and prostitution in literature, ree-gee plays and other performances, religious and historical texts.

A preliminary selection of relevant periods may be the 1900, 1930 (with the crisis)1950s, 1960s with the Rest and Recreation for American soldiers and the 1980s with tourism and emigration/trafficking.

Annette Kanstrup-Jensen: A Comparative Study of Education and Human Development Among Ethnic Minority Groups in the Lao PDR and Thailand

This PhD dissertation will be an examination of the socio-economic impact of the public education policy and practice among the ethnic minority groups - nearly half the total population in the Lao PDR. With the New Economic Mechanism they have suddenly been brought into a more or less monetised economy and their cultural values have been questioned. It is important to analyse whether the education programs offered to them have given them the opportunities to become equal members - not only on paper- of a diversified and multicultural society as stipulated in the Constitution. The experiences from Thailand will contribute to uncover the essential obstacles for successful implementation of education programs; it is also hoped that the research will also be of value for the further development of education programs for ethnic minorities in the Lao PDR.



Up-grading of Village Health Volunteers at district education center in the Lao PDR

Objectives

The objectives of the research study are to examine to which extent the Lao Government's education programs meet the requirements of the rural population and to substantiate to which extent the official programs appreciate and make use of the existing learning resources and indigenous education practices. By comparing the Lao minority education programs with the equivalent Thai experiences the research intends to focus on an analysis of the prevailing concepts of education and the reasons for success or failure. These objectives will provide the background for the main analysis of whether the education programs offered to the minority groups give them the right opportunities to contribute to human development as equal members of the Lao society. Other important objectives are to contribute to the limited theoretical studies in the design of the human resource development process in the Lao PDR, as well as using the analysis to formulate theories about the general applicability of education models to other multi-ethnic societies in developing countries.

Problem focus

- Have the national education policy programs for ethnic minorities taken the needs of the rural population into account when designing and implementing the activities?
- Will the present programs contribute to development of human resources on equal terms as stipulated in the Constitution or will the programs contribute to the denigration of cultural identity?

- Do the education programs designed for ethnic minorities reflect a liberation or a repression process ?
- Do the education programs fulfil the overall development objectives and strategies of the country ?
- Which elements of the analysis are valid for ethnic minority education in general ?

The hypotheses are

- Lao experiences have shown that instead of contributing to the national human development and hence a liberation process for the ethnic minorities, the programs reflect a denigration of the minority groups cultural identity. Mostly for ideological reasons the government has avoided to make good use of indigenous knowledge and skills in national development.
- A wider concept of “education” is necessary and the curricula should be more flexible in order to obtain the objectives of a national education policy in multicultural societies. The reason for this is government misperceptions and focus on nation-building, and the lack of understanding as well as “development” pressures felt both by the government and international donors. This is supported by the Thai experience over the past 25 years.

The research method is the *liberation theory* although this is not without difficulties in a communist country. Moreover the theory has been criticized for being utopian in its optimistic view of education as “an agent of social change”. There are, however, obvious reasons for applying this method. 1: the liberation theories do not intend to be complete systematic theories of development but represent attempts to describe specific means to promote certain aspects of it - relevant with regard to the complexity of the development process in Lao society. 2: the liberation theorists basically take a *humanistic* approach to questions of development. The underlying assumption is that members of less developed societies are oppressed by the powerholders who control the relevant economic resources (i.e. land, industry and wealth) - the situation for the ethnic populations in relation to the “majority” in the Lao PDR. 3: liberation *is* development and for liberation theorists development is more a question of justice rather than wealth - the notion of equity and fairness for all human beings regardless of level of education, technological development etc. 4: according to the liberation theory, schools represent only one important site where learning takes place. This broader

concept of education is not only to be understood as various non-formal activities but as a parallel to formal schooling. First of all the liberation theorists perceive education as a conscientisation process (Pablo Freire: "conscientização"). Education is to be seen as an emancipatory process during which people become aware of their own situation as human beings and citizens and thus able to overcome constraints - an approach that nurtures and appreciates cultural identity, a prerequisite for minority groups to develop themselves and thus participate in the national development process on equal terms.

Hans Hestvang: Development and Social Change in Myanmar (Burma)

The research proposal comprises four themes, two general and two specific, as outlined below under I: *General Objectives* and II: *Special Topics of Research*.

General Objectives

1) The point of departure of this project is a comparative perspective on Burma's long-term rural development, particular rice farming, and resource richness. The project tries to describe the development from the period, when Burma was considered as "the Rice Bowl of Asia" with a unique position as the world's largest rice exporter to its current status as "a Least-Developed Country".

2) Within the context of the first objective, the project will focus on the background for Burma's role as a key actor in the profitable opium trade within the interconnection of the repression of the country's minority groups, military rule, and the absence of democratic institutions with the continuing flowering opium trade.

I. Special Topics of Research

3) Within the theoretical framework outlined in 1) and 2) above, the research will focus more specifically on the Shan People of North-East Burma. The circumstances of North-East Burma are particularly suitable for the study of historical and present-day relations between: a) the central power in Rangoon and Shan people; b) Shan people and non-Shan people.

The project focuses on the theories and practices of the Burmese government, and is based upon data, material and experiences from mainly Human Rights Watch Asia, Amnesty International, and the United States Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which have all issued reports concerning the current situation in Burma. One of the specific aims of the research project is to

study the Burmese military Junta's repression of human rights as it has taken place during the past 10 years.

4) The Shan People have had close commercial and cultural relations with the Laos-Thailand-China border region for centuries. During the past three decades, the scope and intensity of these relations have grown, bringing money and strong independently influence to Shan State. These influences are having a marked impact on the demand for independence. The project seeks to understand and assesses the various factors involved in differing Shan attitudes towards Rangoon politics.

Johannes Schmidt: What Should the Vietnamese Learn From the Thai 'Miracle'? And What to Avoid

Until the financial crisis Thailand had been hailed in the international media as East Asia's Fifth Dragon. Thailand has undoubtedly achieved extraordinary success with economic growth at an unprecedented rate but behind the glossy exterior lie a host of problems.



The so-called banking crisis creates political and social instability in East Asia

The basis of success in Thailand is extremely weak, tattered and fragile. Businessmen and political leaders have siphoned off enormous fortunes without playing a constructive role in promoting the development of their country. Too many businessmen have been content to sell off their nation's resources - its oil, rubber and tin. Perhaps worst of all, they have profited while vast tropical forests have been felled, and are now dangerously close to depletion with no plans for their replacement. Furthermore, the success of Thailand ultimately depends on finance, technology, and management from the outside.

A large number of people still receive only a low level of education and live in poverty. Social problems have exploded with growing inequalities and contradictions between a wealthy but small business elite and the rest of the country.

This project reconsiders the Thai experience in economic policy-making. It claims the existence of three areas of pitfalls and three possible areas of meaningful replication when it comes to the role of state intervention and regulation for Vietnam. The pitfalls are a) environment and ecology, b) social problems like prostitution, AIDS and 3) poverty. On the other hand there are positive aspects, such as 1) the relationship between state bureaucrats and the local businessmen of Chinese origin, 2) the role of political culture and nationalism, 3) the role of pragmatic and conservative non-welfare economic policy-making.

Gorm Winther: Participatory and Labour-managed Systems

Research interests

- Employee participation in management and finance, workers' ownership and self-management, comparative economic systems, comparative performance studies on employee stock ownership plans (esops) at the micro level of the firm in the US.
- Economic development and planning, public enterprises, decentralization, privatization and popular participation in Greenland.
- Transformation of economic systems, economic reforms in socialist systems: The Labor-managed market economy, market socialism.

Gorm Winther: Towards an Economic Independent Greenland Beyond the Millennium

Taking the Home Rule Government's development strategy and investment projects as a point of departure, potentials and restrictions on the implementation of a policy of economic

independence are analyzed. Four problems constitute this approach 1) capital exports and the dependence on block grants from the Danish State 2) a distorted economic structure of Greenland 3) absence of entrepreneurship and individual initiative within the framework of post-colonial paternalistic structures and 4) institutional barriers due to Etatism and bureaucracy.

Gorm Winther: Employee Stock Ownership Plans in the US

The project is a comparative and causal empirical study on growth performance in ESOP firms and conventional firms in New York State and Washington State. Furthermore data were compiled on Washington State employee owners perceptions on their ESOP and their participation in decision-making. Results from the project were published in 1998 with an article on a new theory O for employee ownership in *Economic and Industrial Democracy* - an International Journal (Sage Publications) and a report on the results of the employee owners perception study. The results of the New York study was published by Aalborg University Press (1995) and for the companion studies of the two cases in articles in *Economic and Industrial Democracy* - an International Journal, the *Journal of Employee Ownership Law and Finance* and *Samfundsoekonomen*. The general project continues in 1998-2000.

Gorm Winther: Socio-economic Effects of Mineral Exploitation in the Arctic

The project is a comparative study of the literature and methods of research. Macro- and structural economic effects of mineral exploitation are emphasized. Furthermore, the project is focused on taxation and revenues to the Home Rule Government and on the establishment of funds based on revenues. The project is finalized as a report describing the design to a longer lasting project implemented in cooperation with the Home Rule Government and the Statistical Bureau of Greenland.



Part 6

Teaching programs

DIR is the oldest teaching and research unit at Aalborg University dealing with issues of development, environment, industrialization and international political economy. It was inaugurated in 1980. All teachings and supervision are conducted in English. DIR offers a Diploma program, a Master degree and a PhD in Development and International Relations. The programs have attracted a number of foreign students especially from the Third World. The Master program has been initiated recently. It is expected to enroll both foreign and Danish students.



Students at DIR can follow either a Master program (two years) or a Diploma's specialization program (one year) called 'International Year'. The two semesters of the Diploma's program are identical with the 2nd and 3rd semesters of the Master program.

Diploma program

The Diploma is designed for students of different Master disciplines (i.e. administration, social studies, economics, engineering, languages, etc.) wishing to add a one-year specialization on development and international relations to their formation. The program aims at giving students knowledge of the most relevant theories and approaches within these latter fields.

The objective is to strengthen students' ability to analyze economic, social, cultural and political problems within an interdisciplinary context and in a developmental perspective. A very important feature of the program is the fact that it includes practical work in the

form of an internship affiliated with an international organization or as a visiting semester at a university abroad. Internships in Denmark are also possible.

Upon completion the successful foreign student will be awarded a 'Diploma of Development and International Relations Studies'.

Master program

The Master program is an intensive two-year (four semesters) course. It aims at providing an interdisciplinary insight in studies of development and international relations from a social sciences' perspective.



Students are expected to acquire knowledge about various theoretical approaches to the study of development and international relations, ability to analyze aspects of economic, cultural, political and societal developments from an interdisciplinary perspective, and benefit from the experience of working in an inter-cultural environment derived both from participation in the international degree program at Aalborg University and from an internship.

The first semester is based on courses and project work. The second semester concentrates on theories and methodologies of Development and International Relations. The third semester consists either of a study period at a foreign university or an internship in an institution or organization having an international relations or development dimension in its activities. The fourth semester is devoted to the writing of a Master thesis.

Part 7

The PhD Researcher Study Program: Globalization and Social Change - Interdisciplinary Critical Perspectives

The following describes accomplished and future activities based on the PhD Researcher Program of DIR. The core element in the program is the researcher courses.

The PhD Researcher Program has its own independent profile, but it contains co-operation and network relations with other programs at Aalborg University, and links to other national and in particular international universities and PhD programs. The program aims at internationalization by conducting both research seminars and dissertation presentations in English. We aim at accepting an equal division of foreign and Danish PhD students. Moreover there is a close connection between the Master/Diploma Program of *Development and International Relations* and the PhD Program.



Social change starts curiosity

Academic Profiles of the PhD Research Program

In spite of its modest size, DIR has aimed at establishing a close connection between research and teaching throughout the past twenty years. DIR has defined its focuses and areas of research usually in three-year Research Programs which have covered such topics as *Evaluation of Development Aid, Development problems in Africa, State enterprises in Developing Countries* and later *Transnational Companies and Investments in the Third World, Technology Transfer* as well as political and cultural sub-fields within development

theories and development economics. Meanwhile, these fields have characterized DIR's teaching as well.

As a Master Program has been established parallel with the Diploma program, and as mentioned above, an independent PhD Program has been initiated in connection with a national network co-operation which DIR co-ordinates. The Center has the necessary supervisor capacity and resources with 4 professors and 8 senior lecturers attached to the Program.

The PhD Researcher Program is characterized by basic research, which tries to connect different levels in analyzing the combined process of globalization and social change. This is done by focusing on definitions and frameworks to enable an understanding of the causes and effects of geopolitical and geoeconomic processes and the socio-political forces at global, regional and local levels. Through the use of critical development theories and international political economy as well as the evolution of these concepts it is sought to understand the challenge which globalization exposes local communities to and their possible responses. Through different projects, an understanding of the conditions for peace and security, crisis and change in the international political economy and at the societal levels is formed, which includes the gender problematic, ethnicity and civil society.

The expansion of DIR has resulted in an enlargement of themes like technology and society in an African perspective, sociological and international political economy oriented subjects in a Latin American perspective. In this connection, it is interesting to note that the former Research Program covered Asia and the former Soviet Union exclusively; with the new Research Program, the center is capable of geographically covering all areas outside of the European sphere.

Scholarships and grants

Up to 1998 when this new Research Program comes into effect DIR and affiliated researchers with an interest in development studies had a number of registered PhDs who successfully defended their dissertations.

Two PhDs finished and defended their dissertations in October 1996: Khursid Alam (Fisheries and Development in the West Bangladesh), registered in 1993, financed by Danida; Thorkild Casse (Political Economy in East Asia), defended his dissertation in May 1998. And

one PhD Li Xing (The transformation of China) finished his dissertation in January 1998 and is to defend his PhD in 1999. Another PhD Akram Hawas (Development Discourse in Egypt) is expected to finish his PhD likewise in 1999. In the beginning of 1999 Annette Kanstrup-Jensen has started her PhD with the title "A Comparative Study of Education and Human Development Among Ethnic Minority Groups in the Lao PDR and Thailand". This project is financed by Danida.

In addition, a number of PhD students have in one way or the other occasionally been attached to DIR's PhD Research Program (Klaus Lindegaard, DDP and Thure Hastrup, Humanities-Spanish and Touch Seang Tana, IVOE/IFS). The latter has attended relevant lectures together with the PhDs from the IKE group's ENRECA project in Central America and the IVOE group's ENRECA project in Ghana. Also, in co-operation between FREIA and DIR, Orathai Ard-am is doing a PhD: "Democracy, Decentralization and Voluntary Organization in Thailand: A Comparative Study of Two Provinces" and Steen Fryba Christensen's PhD: "State and Business in Argentina's and Brazil's Development Policies of the 1990's in Historical Perspective: Mercosur as a National Strategy for Insertion in the World Economy" is attached to Spirit and DIR. Moreover, Peter Benjamin is doing a PhD on: "Informatics for Community Development: Evaluating the Impact of Telecenters in South Africa".

All together 11 PhDs have worked or are working on their PhD dissertations at DIR, while the others mentioned above either have a loose connection to DIR's PhD program or are members of the center.

PhD Research Program 1998-2001

The structure of planned PhD courses

One central aim of the PhD program is to organize a series of PhD courses within a critical and inter-disciplinary approach on the socio-cultural and the political-economic perspectives on globalization, localization and social change. The challenges will be taken up by combining the global structural analysis - aiming at understanding the international structures as a whole - with perspectives arising from the periphery, from local levels, from movements, neighborhoods, and from research which base analysis on the perspective from 'outsiders within'.

A course on methodology and general theory in International Studies will run on the basis of one session in each semester in collaboration with the "International Studies PhD

program" (in collaboration with IVOE and the European Studies Group). Different ways of approaching the global system, its impact on local levels and alternative ways of perception will be the topics. PhD students will be invited to present their work, get comments and engage in discussions with students and academic staff. Moreover, PhD students' own problem-formulations will be discussed. The aim of the seminars is to integrate new knowledge and methods into the work of the PhD students.

As already mentioned, we wish to continue a previously established PhD researcher program on a still larger scale. Our strength is that we have many contacts internationally and nationally, and the fact that the many PhDs have close relations with our field at Aalborg University. This target group is so wide that DIR has been able to attract PhDs from other faculties. This is also because *development and international relations* involve interdisciplinary problematics.

The PhDs are obliged to take actively part in all activities carried out according to the Research Program (i.e. international conferences, workshops and seminars held at Aalborg University). Moreover, they participate in the general daily research planning.

Seven courses have been held: three of them have been internally held and funded by Social Sciences faculty at Aalborg University. Below is a brief description:

- 1) **Presentation and critique of PhD projects**, 15 October 1994 with participation of five PhDs and four supervisors (in co-operation with FREIA and DIR).
- 2) **Power, Knowledge and Rationality - Formulating the Problem**, 10 May 1995 with participation of three PhDs and two lecturers (in co-operation FREIA and DIR).
- 3) **Social Theory and Methodology in Studies of Globalization**, 12 October 1995 with participation of three PhD's and two lecturers (in co-operation with FREIA and DIR).

In addition to this, and as mentioned, two PhD courses with external participation have been held. The first course was funded by extraordinary resource from Institute 4. The second was funded by SSF/The Research Academy.

- 4) The PhD course **Gender in a Global Context** was held on the 23-24 May 1995 and had a flexible character of both researcher course and workshop for 20 participants.
- 5) The PhD course **The Spatial Dimensions of Development. Interaction Between the Local, National and the Global** was held as a five-day PhD course at Tune Agricultural School from the 5-10 November 1995. There were 14 participants from the whole Scandinavia and four lecturers and resource persons.
- 6) In December 1997 a five-day PhD seminar was held at Karrebæksminde Course Center with the title **Concepts and Metaphors: Ideologies, Narratives and Myths in Development Discourse** (40 persons participated).
- 7) In October 1998 another PhD seminar entitled: **Globalization, Regionalization and Social Change** was held at Ruths Hotel in Skagen (35 participants from Scandinavia were enrolled).
- 8) A new PhD Seminar titled **Urbanization and the City: Everyday Life, Identities and Movements** will be organized in autumn 1999.

Furthermore, it should be mentioned that DIR's experience with organizing these PhD courses originated from a two-day international research course which DIR arranged in 1992 at Cimbrergaarden in Rebild. It was entitled **Local Community Development Around the bay of Bengal: Context, Crises and Perspectives**. It was financed by Danida with participation from two lecturers from IDS, University of Sussex and ten PhDs from the whole Scandinavia.

In addition to this, the Center has also held some one-day PhD seminars with, for example, Zygmunt Bauman, Joachim Hirsch, Kwang Yeong Shin and Manfred Bienefeld.

Network

DIR works through across-faculty co-operations and has good research relations with both Humanities (Spanish) and Natural Science (ITP and planners). Also members of DIR are attached to a number of important international networks. PhD students and Staff have participated quite actively in the development of NORDEV (Nordic Network on Development), the preparation of PhD courses and have participated in many of these courses. The latest shoot on the stem is the **Researcher Education Network: Development and International Studies**, recently formed at DIR's initiative. In January 1997 the project has received a total of 1,2 million DKK from the Research Academy to hold three PhD courses and two PhD seminars. The secretariat is located at DIR.



Women celebrating national independence in Palestine

Part 8

Networking and External Research Collaboration

In Denmark and the Nordic Countries, DIR mainly has contacts to International Development Studies at Roskilde University Center, Nordic Institute of Asian Studies at Copenhagen University and the Nordic associations for South Asian Studies (India, Bangladesh, etc.) Southeast Asian Studies (ASEAN and Indochina) and East Asian Research (Japan, Korea). The research center is represented in the board of the Group of Development Researchers in Denmark which is a member of the European Association of Development Research Institutes (EADI) and Center for Development Research in Copenhagen.

DIR has developed contacts with a number of networks and members of various professional and academic associations:

The Institute for Russian, Eastern Europe and Central African Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

The Association for Women's and Gender Research

The Danish Ecological Association

Nordic Network for International Development Studies, Roskilde

Nordic Institute for African Studies, Uppsala.

EUROSEAS (European Association for South-East Asian Studies)

Center for freds- og konfliktforskning (Center for Peace and Conflict Research)

Research Center for International Political Economy, University of Amsterdam

IPRA (International Peace Research Association)

EADI (European Association of Development Institutes)

Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex

State and Society in East Asia Network, Copenhagen University

University collaboration

Chittagong University, Bangladesh

Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok

Thanmasat University, Bangkok

Hanoi University, Hanoi

Kuyngnam University, Seoul

University of Gothenburg, PADRIGU

Lund University, Department of Economic History

Murdoch University, Asia Research Center

Renmin University, Beijing, China.

University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



Participating in educational collaboration in Beijing , August 1997 and DIR Director prof. Jacques Hersh critically commenting the "Internationalization of education"

