Globalization, defined as the increasing importance of international connectedness, is far from a new phenomenon. Marauding armies, explorers and traders have travelled the globe for millennia. Yet, contact with faraway lands rarely affected people’s daily lives. People worked and used products that came from close to home, and rarely even encountered someone from another land. Beginning in 1492 explorers, missionaries and armies representing the European powers embarked on the period of Empire and colonialism that ended relatively recently with World War II. This period saw the establishment of large-scale mining and cash-crop cultivation throughout the Americas, Asia and Africa. When huge portions of indigenous populations in the Americas were wiped out by European-born diseases, the globalization of people accelerated when colonial powers vastly expanded the African slave trade, linking West Africa with the Western Hemisphere. Then, as the industrial revolution unfolded, a global division of labour emerged in which the colonies produced primary products which were exchanged for manufactured goods imported from the colonial powers.

The post-World War II period has undergone further globalization and change, as American-based corporations spread throughout the world and the global division of labour become far more extensive and was significantly reorganized. It was after the collapse of the Soviet alternative to liberal capitalism, however, that the term “globalization” took on a new prominence. A single global capitalist market had come into being, and global flows of money, goods, people and ideas grew progressively faster and deeper. Politicians, business leaders, journalists, and social activists generally agree that a new stage of history has been reached in which the relationship between capitalism and the nation-state has been transformed. Globalization is the general term that is used to describe this evolution. Governments and opposition parties rewrite social and economic policies to better reflect this new reality, as politicians of all stripes have become increasingly committed to a “market-led” or “neo-liberal” program that emphasizes free markets and small government.
The aims and objectives of this paper are:

1) To develop an understanding of the forces driving globalization, as well as the political, military, economic, social, environmental and public health consequences of these processes.
2) To develop an understanding of the key debates about globalization and how it should be managed.
3) To explore potential alternatives to the contemporary system of globalization.

Mode of Assessments

One 3-hour examination paper from which candidates must answer three questions.

Supervision Arrangements

Supervisions will be organized by the Course organizer and the lecturers responsible for the different parts of the paper. Students should expect to have six supervisions during the year. They will be divided into supervision groups at the start of the year.

Michaelmas Term

Introductory Lecture

by Dr. Jeff Miley
Tuesday 14 October, 2 p.m.

Global Social Analysis: An Introduction

Prof. em. Göran Therborn
Michaelmas, Fridays 2-4 p.m., weeks 1-2-4, beginning 10 October
No lecture week 3 (Oct. 24). Replaced by Thursday 2-4 p.m., week 2 (Oct. 16).

The course will treat four major themes in a broad introductory overview.

The World Connected
Here the multi-dimensionality of global flows and entanglements will be highlighted, going beyond one-dimensional images of “globalization”. A framework for assessing the importance of contemporary global processes will be sketched by relating and comparing them to sub-global, in particular national processes.

The World Divided
The current world is divided by different enduring historical legacies, of civilizations, different global experiences, and paths to modernity. It is also dived by contemporary processes of inequalities.

The World Envisaged
Different social science conceptions of the world and how it operates will be discussed. What features and patterns of determination are set in focus? We shall also look at world ideologies. Are there any global political-cultural ideologies today?

The World Enacted
Who are the main actors on the world stage? What kinds of global action are going on? We shall look at the whole range, from states to families and individuals.

Readings
*Castells, M. 2012. *Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age, Cambridge, Polity
Questions for Supervision

Is the world hegemony of North Atlantic powers (North America and Northwestern Europe) about to end? If so, how will that affect the world? If not, why not?

Are youth lives in the world becoming similar?

Is ongoing transnationalism marginalizing nation-states?

Compare and discuss different influential visions of the world.

Why has there been a recent surge in protest movements around the world, and what explains their uneven and limited impact so far?

Global Capitalism and American Power since 1945

Dr Jeff Miley

Michaelmas, Fridays, 2-4 p.m., weeks 5-8, beginning 7 November.
Lent, Wednesdays 2-4 p.m., weeks 5-6, beginning 18 February.

This module will treat contemporary globalization as the attempted creation of a single global capitalist economy under the intellectual leadership of “neoliberals.” We will consider how this “market-led,” neoliberal globalization is created, and its consequences for global well-being. We will explore the role played by important institutions of global governance in forging the globalized hegemony of neoliberalism, such as the IMF, World Bank, and the WTO. We will assess the changing role played by the United States of America in the neoliberal globalization process. We will examine the social and political dynamics engendered by neoliberal globalization outside of the capitalist “core,” with special focus on two post-colonial regions: Africa and Latin America. Finally, we will sketch a set of alternatives to neoliberal globalization and critically evaluate their viability.

Lecture 1: Globalization, Capitalism, and the State


Michael Mann, “Has Globalization Ended the Rise and the Rise of the Nation-State?”


Kohli, Atul (2004), State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery.


Woo-Cumings, Meredith ed. (1999), The Developmental State.

David Harvey, A Brief History of Neoliberalism


Ong, Aihwa (2006), Neoliberalism as Exception: Mutations in Citizenship and Sovereignty.

Ong, Aihwa (2007), ‘Neoliberalism as Mobile Technology,’ Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, vol. 32, pps. 3-8

Supervision questions: What role has the state played in the spread of capitalism? In what ways has globalization transformed the role of the state? What are the distinctive features of capitalism in the era of globalization?

Lecture 2: Globalization and Democracy


Francis Fukuyama, The End of History and the Last Man

Samuel Huntington, The Clash of Civilizations

Samuel Huntington, The Third Wave


Supervision questions: What is the relationship between democracy and globalization? In what ways does globalization undermine democracy? In what ways does globalization strengthen democracy?

**Lecture Three: Globalization and Equality**


Robert Brenner, *The Economics of Global Turbulence*


Supervision questions: Has globalization led to more inequality? What is the relationship between wealth in the North and poverty in the South? Do the poor countries need more globalization to lift them out of poverty? What are the main causes and/or likely consequences of the current “global” financial crisis?
Lecture Four: Globalization and the Environment


Suggested film: Darwin’s Nightmare.

Supervision questions: Are the giant corporations that integrate the global economy uniquely well placed to generate massive externalities? If so, are there any other consequences of globalization, such as improved communication and information sharing, that might counterbalance these negative effects?

Lecture Five: Globalization and War


Prem Shankar Jha, The Twilight of the Nation State: Globalisation, Chaos, and War


Supervision questions: What is distinctive about war in the era of globalization? What were the main causes of the outbreak of war in Iraq in 2003? What are the main features and functions of the “global war on terror”?

**Lecture Six: Institutions of Global Governance**


Supervision questions: What part does the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization play in generating this global distribution of income? Do they enforce “rules of the game” that ensure that the poor countries will stay poor even as they integrate into the global division of labour? What role do the giant corporations that straddle the globe play in generating global inequality?
Lecture Seven: Globalization and American Hegemony


Michael Mann, *Incoherent Empire*


Supervision questions: Is U.S. dominance likely to continue in the 21st century? What is the relation between U.S. military dominance and U.S. economic hegemony?

Lecture Eight: Globalization as Post-Colonialism. Africa


Fanon, Frantz. *The Wretched of the Earth*

Fanon, Frantz. *Black Skin, White Masks*


Mamdani, Mahmood (1996), *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism*.


Memmi, Albert. *The Colonizer and the Colonized*


Supervision questions: In what ways is Cesaire’s *Discourse on Colonialism* still relevant? What is the significance of Africa in the New World Order?

Lecture Nine: Globalization and Resistance to Neoliberalism in Latin America


Weisbrot, Mark, on panel about Julian Assange’s Asylum to Ecuador: http://www.cepr.net/index.php/componentoption,com_issues/issue,40/lang,en/task,view_issue/

Supervision questions: Is Latin America the “weakest link” in Neoliberal Hegemony, and if so, why? How does imperialism continue to affect political, economic, and social dynamics in Latin America?

Lecture Ten: Alternative Globalizations

We have established that corporate-driven or market-driven globalization is a powerful force. This lecture argues that there is nothing inevitable about the current direction of globalization. It is true that corporations have, to a pretty successful extent, shaped globalization with the sole purpose of maximizing their short term and long term profits, and their freedom to move around and to guarantee their prerogatives in the face of local democratic demands. However, there has also been growing resistance to this agenda. Millions of workers, consumers, environmentalists, religious activists, farmers and women’s groups have levelled a critique at this project and demanded a reshaping of the rules of the game. Recently, especially in Latin America, a number of new political leaders have made similar stands. This lecture describes these forces, and then suggests some alternative globalization.

Samuel Bowles and Herbert Gintis, Democracy and Capitalism

Robert Dahl, A Preface to Economic Democracy

Roberto Mangabeira Unger, Democracy Realized: The Progressive Alternative

Eric Olin Wright, Envisioning Real Utopias

Perry Anderson, “Jottings on the Conjuncture”


Supervision questions: Are there feasible and desirable alternatives to the current corporate-dominated, neoliberal globalization? Does Fukuyama’s claim about “democratic capitalism” as the end of history still ring true?

**Lent Term**

**The Information Revolution**

Dr. Peter Webb
Lent, Wed 4-5 pm, Weeks 1-4, beginning 21 January

**Lecture 1 – The Internet, Computer Mediated Communication and Globalisation.**

This lecture assesses the developments of the internet and computer mediated communications and looks at the reach of these products, the roll out of broadband, the impact of these new technologies and their affect on daily life. We look at some of the key theorists of the internet such as Mark Poster, Sherry Turkle, Howard Rheingold and Rob Shields. Their works are attempts to understand where CMC’s maybe taking us and how they affect what we do and understand in the world.


Poster, Mark. 2000. What’s the matter with the Internet. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.


Essay question - Has Computer Mediated Communication made us more insular in our social, cultural and political life?

**Lecture 2 - Global media – local worlds: the importance of local media production**

In this lecture we consider the range of ‘local’ and transnational media productions that persist despite the dominance of media conglomerates, and what this tells about their variety and resilience.


Essay Question: Are local cultures strong enough to survive in the era of global culture?
Lecture 3 – Global transformations: the cultural dimensions of global and local cultural exchange.

This lecture looks at how local cultures interpret and develop different types of response and different hybrids of cultural product to reflect the interaction of cultures on a global and local level. I take a number of examples and work through the processes of hybridisation that has taken place and try to assess the delicate balance between local and global cultural forces.


Essay Question: Critically assess the idea that hybridity is a positive feature of the processes of globalisation? Illustrate you answer with examples of cultural forms that either exhibit hybridity or those that seem to resist it.

Lecture 4 - Transnational Media and Identities

In this lecture we take an identity perspective in addressing the consumption of global and transnational cultural flows. We ask whether media consumption has any impact on the ways that local and diasporic identities are articulated. In order to answer this question we first consider the concepts of culture and identity, and then examine their
relationship to media and cultural forms. Here, the focus is on media consumption in a transnational, and notably a diasporic context. Drawing on empirical studies we reconsider the popularly held assumption that the media shape identities. We argue that media and identities are dynamic and changing processes, thus warning against the essentialism of either a ‘strong media’ or ‘strong identity’ thesis.


Essay Question: How strong is a sense of ethnic and national identity in the globalised world? How do media networks attempt to promote such identities?

**Globalisation and Assisted Reproduction Technologies**

Zeynep Gürtin

Lent, Tuesdays 10-11, Weeks 5-8, beginning 17 February
This set of four lectures introduces students to assisted reproductive technologies and their global impact. Both the rapid spread of these technologies across the globe, and the transnational markets they have led to, are analysed as vivid examples of 21st century globalization.

The first lecture provides a context of the global burden of infertility and the technological possibilities enabled by contemporary reproductive medicine, as well as outlining the theoretical approaches that will frame our analysis of this topic. The second lecture engages with ethnographies of assisted reproduction to interrogate how the “global” technologies of IVF and its derivatives have been localized in different contexts. Lecture three introduces the concept of “reproductive tourism”, a burgeoning global phenomenon at the intersection of medicine, commerce and travel, asking whether it represents a problem or solution for states, individuals, and the assisted reproduction industry. In the final lecture we focus on gamete agencies and the transnational surrogacy industry, examining the ways in which these international markets create, exploit and disrupt global inequalities.


Supervision questions:

Brave new world or same old kinship?

Assisted reproduction technologies

Lecture 2. Local Babies, Global Science

Supervision questions:

What are the cultural changes instigated by technological reproduction?

How do responses to assisted reproductive technologies indicate cultural concerns and preoccupations?

(Both questions must be answered with reference to one or more ethnographies of assisted reproduction.)

Lecture 3. Reproductive Tourism: Legal and Ethical Dimensions


• Inhorn, M. C., Patrizio, P., 2009. Rethinking reproductive "tourism" as reproductive "exile". Fertil. Steril. 92(3), 904-906. **


Supervision questions:
Is reproductive tourism a problem or a solution?
Are those who travel for fertility treatments patients, consumers or exiles?

Lecture 4. Global Gametes and Outsourcing Pregnancy

Supervision questions:
Do gamete markets and/or the surrogacy industry create new relationships or exploit existing global inequalities?
What are the ethical issues at stake in the development of global markets for reproductive substances and services?

If there is demand, we may screen the film Google Baby (2009. Dir. Zippi Brand Frank.) as part of this module.

**PDF available on Camtools.

Integration of Themes

Dr. Jeff Miley
Lent, Wednesday 2-4, week 7 (4 March).

Student Feedback:
Your chance to put forward your opinions on the papers you take!

For Sociology Papers, student feedback is collected via hard-copy anonymous questionnaires distributed at various points in the academic year. It is crucial that you fill these out and give feedback on your papers. Getting good feedback from students makes the course better and shows the outside world how Cambridge degrees consider their students views. Course organisers take students' concerns and suggestions into consideration each year when preparing their paper outlines and selecting supervisors for the year. So please remember to fill out a form either in hard-copy or on the undergraduate sociology website.