

Summaries

Abram de Swaan

The Sociological Study of Transnational Society

Proposing a general framework for the study of the emerging transnational society, the article critically surveys predominant approaches and disciplinary perspectives in this field, discusses their respective merits and shortcomings, and outlines an approach based on a core/periphery model with oligopolistic competition. Within this general framework, sociology finds its specific subject in the ties that connect human beings across national borders, directly or mediated by transnational institutions. An elaborated and amended version of this approach is illustrated, among others, by the dynamics of cultural globalization and the 'world language system'.

Tom Nierop

Globalization, International Networks and the Regional Paradox

In this article, globalization is studied by analyzing the density and shape of worldwide networks of relations, especially that of international trade. Globalization is an uneven process. States are to an unequal extent connected with the rest of the world and their relations are unevenly spread around the globe. African countries in particular are often relatively poorly and unstably connected with the international system. Paradoxically, 'globalization' often shows primarily (macro-)regional rather than global features. Although the playing field of states and other actors has global dimensions, the actual play in most cases has not. Economic regionalism is the result of a 'natural' process rather than of deliberate policy.

Ruud Stokvis

Strategy and Structure of Multinationals

The strategy and structure of multinationals varies between the extremes of multi-domestic and transnational organizations. The tendency that more multinationals acquire transnational characteristics is the subject of the article. The most important condition that stimulates this development is the economic development of Eastern Asia in recent years. Enterprises have to become more competitive. A central problem is the relation between their product divisions and country organizations. Operating units are given more autonomy and become integrated by regional management. Informatization devices enable topmanagement to supervise the complicated networks of interactions. The social consequences of these developments are that national governments become more dependent on the multinationals. To control these enterprises international government structures will be necessary.

The aim of the paper is twofold. It analyses how financial internationalization can be explained, and subsequently examines the interrelations between this internationalization and economic regulation. External and internal factors drive financial institutions to cross borders. External factors are deregulation and changes in information technology. Internal factors are the information-intensive character of the relationship between the financial firm and its client as well as the comparative advantage of the financial firm and the potential for scale economies. Financial internationalization and regulation interact in a dialectic fashion. The interaction is both at the macro-level and at the level of the firm. Internationalization weakens the grip of domestic policy makers on the economy (*e.g.* fiscal and monetary policy). It also weakens the grip on the individual financial firm. Governments react by coordinating policies at a regional level. However, as the process of making up such policies is hampered by many pitfalls, it cannot neutralize the effect of increased financial internationalization.

Godfried van Benthem van den Bergh

Global Entanglements (Interdependencies) and the World of States

A distinction is made between two aspects of the globalization process as currently being discussed. Globalization (1) refers to the increasing importance of entanglements and interdependencies at the global level, economic and financial, environmental or cultural. That process is often supposed to reduce the autonomy - if not the viability - of states. Globalization (2) refers to the increasing role of multilateral and bilateral cooperation between states, especially within the framework of the United Nations. Does globalization (1) have to lead to globalization (2)? Does it force states to take each other's interests more into account and to durably cooperate with each other? Will world order become possible in that way?

August Gijswijt

The Establishment of a Global Regime: the Case of Stratospheric Ozone Depletion

In present society a gap exists between general problem awareness and uncomfortable feelings about environmental deterioration on the one hand and a practically-oriented belief in people's own potential and possibilities as the basis for dealing with the ecological problem on the other. Whether and how this gap can be bridged by the build-up of knowledge, as well as its cultural and institutional incorporation, forms the theme of this article. I shall elaborate this theme on the basis of an analysis of society's reactions to the discovery of the stratospheric ozone depletion. In 1974 attention was first drawn to the problem. In 1985 an outline treaty was concluded in Vienna, which was elaborated in 1987 in the Montréal Protocol and further developed in 1990 in London and 1992 in Copenhagen. With the establishment of the 'ozone regime' a large number of countries accepted in the

framework of the UN a drastic restriction on the production of CFCs and halons, chemical substances with a number of lucrative industrial uses. Does the success of the ozone regime herald more forceful international environmental policy? Or has the international community defined it as a unique problem, for which a unique solution must be found? In other words: when, how and why do countries react to the global environmental question in the framework of the UN? By means of the reconstruction and analysis of the establishment of the ozone regime I try to make a contribution to answering these questions.

J. Goudsblom

The Worm and the Clock. On the Genesis of a Global Time Regime

The spread of a unitary time grid over the whole world is a remarkable aspect of globalization. Time is not a natural given; as suggested by Norbert Elias, it is a means, devised by humans, for comparing processes of various speed and duration. As such, it is a function of 'timing' - an activity which is inherently place-bound. Four phases can be distinguished in the development leading up to universal global timing. In Phase 1 there are no instruments for dividing the day into clearcut intervals such as hours. Phase 2 brings various instruments such as sundials and waterclocks with which the day is divided into 24 hours of unequal length. In Phase 3 the mechanical clock makes standardization of the hour possible. In Phase 4 the world is divided into 24 time zones, with a synchronized schedule of hours, minutes and seconds spread globally as an invisible net.

Johan Heilbron

Globalization and Transnational Cultural Exchange

After examining the long-term development of transnational cultural exchange and exploring the dynamics of the cultural worldsystem, an analysis is presented of the great variety in which national cultural systems relate to transnational cultural flows. The cultural production in different countries varies between a low and a high degree of cultural import and international orientation. It is argued that this may be accounted for by a two-dimensional model based on the degree of cultural centrality and the size of national cultural production systems.

Nico Wilterdink

Internationalization and Socio-economic Inequality within States

This article tests the thesis that economic internationalization or globalization has led to growing socio-economic inequality in Western societies since about 1980. The thesis is elaborated with the help of the concept of interdependence; it is advanced that the decrease of socio-economic inequality in Western societies during most of the 20th century is connected to the strengthening of networks of interdependence on the national level, whereas the increase of inequality in recent years is connected

to a strengthening of international interdependencies and a corresponding weakening of the ties of interdependence within nation-states.

In order to test the thesis, socio-economic inequality is defined as inequality of disposable household income, and economic internationalization is specified as the growth of foreign direct investment (FDI). It is hypothesized that 1) the increase of income inequality has been preceded by an acceleration in the growth of FDI flows, 2a) income inequality in a given (Western) country is positively related to the inward and outward FDI stock relative to GDP, and 2b) the increase of income inequality in a given country during the 1970s and 1980s is positively related to the rate of growth of FDI inflows and outflows. Hypothesis (1) is partly confirmed, hypothesis (2a) is rejected, hypothesis (2b) is partly confirmed. It is concluded that globalization processes do play a role in the recent increase of socio-economic inequality in Western societies, but that they are only part of the explanation. Politico-institutional factors are particularly important in explaining variations in (the development of) inequality between countries.

Jan Nijman

World Cities in the Process of Globalization

Cities play an important role in the process of globalization. The term 'world-cities' is used to indicate major urban centers that have a crucial role as command-centers in the world-economy. They function as central nodes in the global network. The typical world-cities are New York, London, and Tokyo. Other cities are not so much key players on the global scene, but they may still have an outspoken international profile as their urban landscapes are strongly affected by processes of globalization. Examples include Miami and Amsterdam. This study compares these five cities on their external global functions and internal urban transformations. As such, it sheds light on the spatial dimensions of the globalization process.

Jack Burgers & Godfried Engbersen

Globalization, Migration and Illegal Aliens

One of the manifestations of globalization is the rapid increase in international migration. Most countries in the western world have tried to restrict the migratory flows coming from economic peripheral areas. Thus, a new category of migrants has been created: the illegal aliens. In our contribution we try to answer the question how illegal aliens manage to survive in the Dutch city of Rotterdam. Making use of theoretical notions which recently have been developed in the field of urban studies, and more particularly in the work on 'global cities', we expected to find illegal migrants coming mostly from countries where former guest-workers were recruited and from former Dutch colonies. Furthermore, we expected that illegal aliens would be employed in rudiments of traditional sectors as agriculture and manufacturing and in parts of the expanding service industries. Although both hypotheses were confirmed, two findings stand out in our research. First, more than half of the illegal aliens come from countries which have (had) no direct economic or political ties

with the Netherlands. Besides globalization in terms of production and politics, there appears to be a globalization of consumption patterns and information which generates migratory flows which are more diffuse as to the relation between countries of origin and destination. Second, a third of the illegal aliens do not hold jobs or do not work to make a living. Apparently, the Dutch case generates a type of illegal alien which has not been described earlier in the literature: the undocumented unemployed. Using the notion of an opportunity structure for illegal aliens in Dutch cities we sketch different careers for illegal migrants.