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**Title of Session:** Comparative-Historical Sociology Across Global, Regional and Local Worlds

**Name of Session Convener(s):** Ewa Morawska and Willfried Spohn

**University/Organization incl. City:** University of Essex, UK and University of Goettingen, Germany

**Chair:** Willfried Spohn

**University/Organization incl. City:** University of Goettingen, Germany

**I) Title of Selected Paper:** Crises and Transformations: Comparative-historical Sociology and Large-scale Change

**Name/s of Author/s:** Craig Calhoun

**University/Organization incl. City:** Social Science Research Council, New York

**Abstract:**

**II) Title of Selected Paper:** Deciphering the Global - its Scales, Spaces and Subjects

**Name/s of Author/s:** Saskia Sassen

**University/Organization incl. City:** Columbia University, New York

**Abstract:**

**III) Title of Selected Paper:** Translating Global Values into Domestic Contexts: The Rise of Environmentalism in South Korea

**Name/s of Author/s:** Thomas Kern

**University/Organization incl. City:** University of Heidelberg, Germany

## Abstract:

Thomas Kern  
Institute of Sociology  
Heidelberg University  
Bergheimer Str. 58  
69117 Heidelberg  
Germany

thomas.kern@soziologie.uni-heidelberg.de

### **Translating Global Values into Domestic Contexts: The Rise of Environmentalism in South Korea**

This presentation deals with the translation of global values and ideas into domestic contexts. The classical social movement approach explains the rise of social movements with domestic configurations of political and cultural conflicts. From this perspective, the success of a movement is determined by political opportunities, mobilizing structures, and collective action frames. In contrast, the theory of world society suggests that social movements are a product of an expanding world culture which is shaped by Western values. From this point of view, social movements are no longer conceived as primary agents of social change. They rather appear as "enactors" of a world culture which becomes increasingly homogenous. Following critical accounts of the world society theory, this presentation examines the *translation* of global values and ideas into domestic contexts on the case of the environmental movement of South Korea. Based on a quantitative and qualitative analysis of statements, network data and surveys, this study investigates the social mechanism by which world society, domestic configurations of power, *and* the cultural creativity of movement activists jointly shaped the rise of the environmental movement. The results further reveal that empirical case studies are an appropriate instrument in order to get a more comprehensive understanding about the social mechanisms at the interface of global and domestic structures.

**IV) Title of Selected Paper:** The Transformative Impact of Immigrants on the Host Society: An Unexamined Aspect of Immigrants on the Glocalization Process

**Name/s of Author/s:** Ewa Morawska

**University/Organization incl. City:** University of Essex, Colchester, UK

**Abstract:** Although studies of international migration have traditionally transgressed global and national boundaries, these “cosmopolitan” foundations have not saved the practitioners of this field from narrow, one-sided perspectives in their concerns. The almost exclusive focus of both theory and research regarding the effects of the encounters between immigrants and the receiver countries they settle in has been on the adaptation (alternately called assimilation or integration) of the former – immigrants’--orientations and practices into the dominant sociocultural and civic-political modes of host societies. This paper addresses a thus far neglected reverse outcome of international migration, namely, the transformative impact of immigrants’ activities on their host society.

An examination of these effects is conducted within the conceptual framework of *glocalization* understood as the simultaneous process of homogenization and diversification which “localizes” the global or brings multicultural ways of life into the everyday existence of particular localities. Specifically, the analysis focuses on two phases of the glocalization process as identified by Giulainotti and Robertson (2007): *accommodation* or absorption by social actors—here, receiver-society native residents and institutions—of the practices and meanings associated with other societies, in this case those brought in by immigrants; and *transformation* or the emergence of new local forms as the result of the process of accommodation.

The here presented analysis has a historical-comparative character. Its historical dimension is founded on a threefold principle. First, I conceive of the examined effects as processes of “becoming” (rather than as fixed states); second, I treat time and, specifically, its duration, pace, and sequence or the order in which events happen (Aminzade 1992) as factors conducive –or potentially conducive and, thus, requiring the researcher’s inspection--to the outcomes of the investigated phenomena; and third, I explain *why* things happen by demonstrating *how* they happen (Abrams 1982), that is, by identifying a constellation of relevant circumstances which have contributed to the specific outcome. In the comparative part of the analysis I contrast the context and transformative impact on the host society of the activities of members of the so-called “new” or post-1965 wave of immigration into the United States with the situation of “old” arrivals who came to that country in the turn-of-the-previous-century great wave of migration.