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*Rethinking Modernity and Human Rights: Negotiation of Positions and Conversations in post colonial Kenya*

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**Abstract:** The 21st Century has been referred to as the era/ age of human rights. In fact, since 1945, the United Nations has elaborated over 70 covenants, resolutions, declarations, and recommendations relating to the application and observation of human rights. Though respect for human rights and their implementation largely vary from country to country and in many parts of the globe, compliance with the basic standards of human rights has still become a gauge and key indicator of national and international “modern” society.

This paper takes a closer look at the interplay between the globalization of human rights modernism and more recent conceptualizations and experiences of human rights that stress the flexibility of human rights processes and allow for new interpretations. Citing various practices from Kenya, the paper thus clarifies that the UN’s human rights modernism can no longer be seen as a homogenizing agent that flattens local situations into replicas of each other. Instead, human rights must be understood within its “social life” and inter-cultural conversations and negotiations with complex repertoires of meanings extracted from myriad sources and reinterpreted through local understandings present in all societies.

*A Framework for Mobilizing and Strengthening Access to Justice in Ghana: Opportunities and Challenges*

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**Abstract:** The protection of human rights and access to justice are two pillars that figure prominently in attempts to promote sustainable development. Governments and non-governmental agencies involved in development recognize that the lack of justice – including being unaware of or uninformed about one’s fundamental rights and one’s capacity to access justice, are major obstacles to the cultural, socio-economic and political development of marginalized communities around the world. In order to achieve sustainable development, human rights must not only be guaranteed through the creation of fair and adequate legal frameworks and institutions, including effective enforcement organizations, but, more importantly, people must first have to be made aware of their rights and their access to justice. Like many emerging democracies on the African continent, Ghana can boast of a strong constitution, a well developed legal framework as well as established law enforcement institutions. Ghana has also ratified almost every international convention dealing with the promotion of human rights. Although, in theory, access to justice is guaranteed under the Ghanaian constitution, in practice this issue poses major challenges. It is estimated that about two thirds of the country’s citizens do not have access to legal institutions, or are not even aware of their individual rights guaranteed under the Ghanaian constitution. The steady growth, over the last decade, in the number of non-governmental agencies committed to promoting justice and removing barriers to access to legal institutions attests to this problem of lack of access to justice.

This paper is based on an ongoing research aimed at the evaluation of the efforts of both governmental and non-governmental actors geared towards the promotion, protection, and preservation of human rights, through awareness campaigns, capacity building and advocacy at the community level in Ghana, with the explicit aim of increasing access to justice, in order to consolidate the processes involved in democratization and development.

*Canada's Role in the Globalization of Torture: Post-WWII Prohibitions, Made-in-Canada Innovations, and the Globalization of "No-touch" Torture*

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**Abstract:** Article 5 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." Not long afterwards, US military and intelligence agencies, in partnership with their Canadian and British allies, began research exploring "mind control." Their research resulted in "no-touch" torture, based in large part on breakthroughs by Canadian researchers at McGill University. This new form of torture did not differ from the traditional in effect, but it did have the benefit of avoiding conventional torture's telltale traces. These Canadian innovations were exported by both Britain (to Northern Ireland, the British Cameroons, Brunei, British Guiana, Aden, Borneo/Malaysia, and the Persian Gulf) and the US (from Vietnam in the early 1960s through Latin America in the 1970s and 1980s to Guantanamo and elsewhere to this day). Torture historian Darius Rejali argues that the adoption of such "no-touch" techniques is, at least in part, driven by the spread – and increased effectiveness – of human rights monitoring. This suggests the importance of understanding the origins and character of "modern" torture if we hope to curb its current proliferation.

*Mass International Tourism as Migration: The Case of the Maya Riviera, Mexico*

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**Abstract:** Tourists often travel to escape the realities of their “real life,” and find a destination for “rest and relaxation.” R&R is shorthand for stepping outside of the political, economic and social realities of home. Mass global tourism is motivated to a great extent by such escapism. The movement of millions of people from the global North to the global South also mimics colonization projects that include sending “settlers” as a strategy to appropriate spaces, both physical and political. Therefore, the tourist who feels “apolitical” in fact is participating in a demographic phenomenon that has important political implications. This paper argues that mass tourism should be considered part of a global neo-colonial initiative that seriously distorts local political, economic and social processes in favour of non-local interests. Tourism is thus seen to be a key tool of globalization and Western appropriation of the global South.

*Globalization, Human Rights and Social Exclusion: Marital Migrants in Taiwan*

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**Abstract:** In the process of globalization, the number of transnational immigrants who travel across borders for economic and marital purposes has increased rapidly. At the same time, social exclusion, witnessed everywhere in the world, has affected female marital immigrants most seriously. Most female migrants come to Taiwan for one of the two aforementioned reasons and many face problems of social adaptation, and are vulnerable to social exclusion. This paper first examines the relevant theories of social exclusion. Then it discusses Taiwan's foreign brides' policy, as a labor policy of Taiwan that originated from the European Union's policies to combat social exclusion. The paper goes on to discuss the missing force in the formation of labor policies in Taiwan through the examination of the policy dialogue between the European Union and member states with regard to combating social exclusion. It is shown that the EU's policies to combat social exclusion mainly respond to the pressure of social inclusion within the European society and related social exclusion problems in the member states. In conclusion, this paper addresses the issue of structural obstacles such as conventional ideology that impedes the foreign brides from making a smooth adaptation to their new environment.

*Karibuni: A Documentary Investigating the Immigrant Experience through a Franco-African Case Study*

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**Abstract:** *Karibuni* is a documentary which recounts the experiences of Franco-African immigrants across Canada's western provinces. Its message is powerful: immigrants encounter many challenges when arriving in Canada, and resident Canadians can do a great deal more to make the experiences of newcomers more welcoming and accepting.

As globalization continues, immigrants and refugees comprise an ever increasing portion of the Canadian population. Using *Karibuni* as a case study, this workshop raises awareness about the rights of immigrants and refugees in Canada. The workshop illustrates the challenges that many immigrants face to integrate into a new community, including language barriers, cultural differences, and difficulties finding employment. The role of welcoming communities, including the minority Francophone community, may also be discussed.

In addition, all interested participants will receive a DVD and a presenter's manual should they wish to conduct the Karibuni Program themselves. Using the Karibuni Program to raise awareness can lead to greater understanding among diverse groups, and can facilitate a more harmonious integration of newcomers. This workshop will provide an excellent forum for discussion and learning regarding the rights of immigrants and refugees in Canada.

*Desaperecidos and the Writ of Amparo in the Philippines*

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**Abstract:** The phenomenon of disappearing journalists, students and social protesters is unfortunately a disturbing reality of the Philippine political scene. Just recently, the Philippine Supreme Court instituted a remedy to greatly assist the friends and relatives of the *desaperecidos*, or the disappeared persons, in determining what has happened to them. Previously, the only alternative available to the seeker was the writ of *habeas corpus*. Unfortunately, the military could easily respond to such writs by simply claiming that it did not know of the disappeared's whereabouts. The new alternative, the writ of *amparo*, compels the military to provide all the records in its possession to the seeker so as to help the court determine where the disappeared is. However, in this modern age, terrorists and other subversive organizations make use of advanced technology, to plot and map out their dastardly activities, so there is a greater need for the military to avail itself of more advanced surveillance practices, which unfortunately may lead to violations of privacy of the citizen. It may also result in the proliferation of disappeared persons. This paper tackles this phenomenon in the Philippines and will deal with how the government has responded to the dangers of terrorism, how military abuses have been committed in the name of national security, and how the courts deal with the situation of the *desaperecidos*.

*Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: A Tibetan Buddhist Deconstruction*

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**Abstract:** As globalization facilitates all manner of material, intellectual and cultural exchange, the ways in which people understand, assess and attend to mental and physical health are no longer determined by immediate cultural influences alone. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is an illness construct which epitomizes the immense complexity of the 'internationalization' of culturally-specific illness categories. The Tibetan refugee population, among whom significant PTSD research has been conducted, serves as a case in point. As knowledge of the oppressive policies and violent suppression of basic rights and freedoms in Tibet grows, research among Tibetan exiles is marked by an increased focus on stress and the residual impacts of imprisonment, torture and flight. The limitations evident in many such PTSD studies relate to inadequate understanding of participants, administration of inappropriate and inadequate measures, and uncritical assumptions as to the universal applicability of 'Western'-based medical and diagnostic categories. In arguing against the utility of PTSD among Tibetan refugee populations, this paper outlines seven problematic areas related to the illness category and diagnostic criteria of PTSD, using data from published studies to argue in favor of abandoning notions of objective science and universal, ahistorical approaches when it comes to human health and well-being.

*Warana Rural Cooperatives in India: A Response to Globalization*

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**Abstract:** Warana Rural Cooperatives are considered as a model of integrated rural development in India. Warana cooperatives include a sugar factory, a dairy products plant, a bank, a chain of super market, a paper plant, a fruit processing plant and education institutions from kindergarten through to engineering. This presentation highlights the effects of globalization on rural illiterate farmers in Warana Valley in India and explains how the workings of these cooperatives changed in response to globalization. Warana, once a barren area with very little attention to human rights and child labor issues, now has prosperity. Warana, with so many facilities and opportunities, has become a wonderful place for children. This presentation explains this interesting case of change in Warana due to globalization.

*Globalisation and Women's Economic Status in the Arab World*

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**Abstract:** Globalisation affects all states, both positively and negatively; no state can isolate its economy from the impact of globalisation. Arab countries continue to suffer from declining rates of economic growth, and remain unable to achieve growth rates that promote the economic empowerment of their populations. This is especially true with regard to women who are perhaps the weakest link in Arab societies. Indeed, globalisation has increased female unemployment rates in the Arab world.

Examining the impact of globalisation on women's economic status in the Arab world, and exploring the relationship between globalisation and increasing unemployment rates among women can provide answers to some major questions; e.g., how does globalisation cause increases in female unemployment rates? And specifically, why are these rates rising among women in Arab countries?

*Child Poverty in Urban China: A Rights-based Assessment*

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**Abstract:** Child poverty is a serious problem all over the world. Notably, numerous studies have examined the problem of rural poverty in China while urban poverty (particularly child poverty) in China remains to be charted. This presentation looks at poor households and their children in urban China, assessing the extent of their poverty as well as how poverty impacts the children. Qualitative methodology, including in-depth interviews and focus group methods, is adopted in this study. Some 19 poor families were interviewed in Tianjin, China. It is found that there is no access to health insurance which threatens poor urban children's survival and health. High educational fees further compromise the right of development on the basis of equal opportunity. While the basic rights of survival, development and protection of poor urban children are satisfied, their right of participation is overlooked. In short, poor families carry too much burden to realize children's rights and human needs. Implications (policy and research) of the study will be discussed. In conclusion, we argue that as a state signatory of *The Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the Chinese government should introduce more potent policies and strategies to deal with the problem of child poverty.

*The Ogoni Question: An Examination of the Ogoni Bill of Rights under The International Law of Self-Determination*

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**Abstract:** This dissertation discusses the politics of ethnic nationalism in Nigeria and examines the socio-economic and political grievances which led to the formation of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) and the subsequent drafting of the Ogoni Bill of Rights that advocated for greater autonomy for the Ogoniland through emancipation from the yoke of domestic colonialism. It explores MOSOP's campaign strategies and its encounters with the State. The rationale behind this dissertation rests on the examination of the Ogoni Bill of Rights under international law of self-determination. It argues that the law of self-determination falls short of the claims that are enshrined in the Ogoni Bill of Rights because the conflicting interpretations of the term 'peoples' suggest that the holder of the right to self-determination is the entire population of the state and, by implication the Nigerian state. Thus, international law of self-determination is elusive and unable to respond to the exigencies of contemporary struggles such as those of the Ogoni. The dissertation concludes that Ogoniland's claim for political autonomy is justified because: (a) the Ogonis have been intimidated, victimized and their oil resources exploited by the Nigerian government and the multi-national oil companies, and (b) Ogoniland is underdeveloped due to the continuing marginalization of the Ogonis by the Nigerian ruling elites, who use the revenue from Ogoni oil resources to develop the states of the ethnic majorities. In contrast, it is argued that the Nigerian state must protect the human and democratic rights of the Ogonis to ensure the future development of Ogoniland.

*Studying the Situation of Foreign Migrants between Taiwan and Japan*

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**Abstract:** Both Taiwan and Japan seem to share the issues of an aging population and low fertility rate in terms of the labor force. They may import a labor force from abroad, but it seems that policies for foreign (migrant) workers are rather ineffective and impractical. In the case of Japan, Japanese descendants from South American countries and Chinese migrants from mainland China have become the dominant alternative labor force. In contrast, it is argued that many migrant workers from Southeast Asian countries such as Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines have come to Taiwan. Are the trends of imported migrants into Taiwan and Japan comparable given the countries' ethnic and cultural backgrounds? In addition, what role do Chinese from mainland China play in this issue? In this paper, the author examines the immigration policies of the two governments and comparatively analyzes the impact of foreign migrants on Taiwanese and Japanese societies.

*Neoliberal Globalization and Subaltern Social Movements/Struggles in Asia and Africa*

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**Abstract:** The post-independence dependent-development project in the global South and the current wave of 1980s neoliberal globalization continue to displace and dispossess, and are subsequently disrupted by, numerous local, translocal and increasingly global subaltern (peasant, indigenous, development-displaced rural/urban social groups enmeshed in unequal social relations of political, economic and cultural power reproduced by capital) struggles/activist movements that are “within, beside and against colonization”, “deflecting globalization’s reinvention of colonial processes” (Joan Barker, 2005, p.20). This paper will elaborate on a preliminary sketch of local, translocal, national and/or global subaltern movements/struggles emerging from mining, dams, land, forests and eco-tourism-related displacements/dispossession of subaltern groups in the Asian and African contexts. The results derive from researching documents and literature both non-academic and academic. Where are these movements located? What are some of their apparent concerns/objectives? Who are the primary agents/actors (subaltern groups) engaged in these assertions? What are some of the strategies being employed? What are some of the apparent obstacles to/gains being realized by these movements? This research has been prompted by a paucity of amalgamated treatment of these movements in Asia/Africa (in contrast to Latin America) and their relative obscurity, given the scholarly and political preoccupation with modern urban civil-society activist movements.

*The Evolution of a Cuban Tourist Destination: (Re)constructing Local Landscapes through Foreign Representations*

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**Abstract:** With the re-emergence of international tourism in Cuba, Cuban tourist destinations continue to be (re)constructed using many of the same “place-images” that have traditionally dominated Cuban tourist literature. These place images have been (re)created overtime melding local characteristics with foreign interpretations to form places that entice and attract the tourist. The result is an “imaginary geography” of the Cuban tourist destination: one that is based on representations of a local landscape from non-local perspectives. Departing from the tourist areas of Havana and Varadero, which dominate the literature, this paper assesses the evolution of a tourism landscape of the city of Trinidad de Cuba. Utilizing popular and tourist literature the paper assess how non-local representations of Trinidad have (re)produced Trinidad as a tourist destination overtime leading to its “imaginary” as a tourist destination.

*Human Rights Education and Democracy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Special Focus on Asia*

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**Abstract:** 1995-2004 was declared by the UN as the Decade of Human Rights Education. During this decade, most of the Asian Governments agreed to strengthen human rights education and democracy as a pillar of human rights protection. However, the vitality of human rights education has not been consistent across the Asian region. In few countries has there been a systematic review of the extent, quality and access to human rights education and of the national support system for its development. Very few Asian countries have developed a comprehensive national plan of action for human rights education. Regional support for human rights education has been largely localized, disparate, or discontinuous. This paper aims to address three key aspects of human rights education and democracy in Asian universities:

- (1) Analysis of the current situation of human rights education in the university system;
- (2) Setting priorities and guidelines on key components of human rights education in the university system;
- (3) Identification of achievements, weaknesses, and areas for improvement in human rights education in Asian, mainly Japanese, universities, which help to promote a self-reliant approach to improving and expanding such education.

*Do Official Development Aid and Foreign Direct Investment Promote Good Governance in Africa?*

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**Abstract:** In Africa, good governance has been preached as a panacea to reverse economic plight, to attract inflow of capital, and, in some cases, to reverse capital outflows. The flow of capital, however, has unexpected side effects on host economies' governance, among other things. Given the highly anticipated economic impacts, it is also becoming clear that the increased inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Official Development Aid (ODA) impact governance institutions of a host country. But the direction of the impact is not obvious. Knack and Rehman (2007) as well as Brautigam and Knack (2004) report a negative association between foreign aid and governance indicators, whereas Goldsmith (2001) indicates positive relationship between the two variables in Sub-Saharan Africa. Using data on governance indicators, FDI and ODA, the present study explores further whether FDI and ODA promoted good governance in Africa during 1975 – 2002 and attempts to explain these conflicting results. The results of the study confirm that ODA has had positive and significant effects on governance. In contrast, for the case of FDI, although contemporaneous effects could not be detected, significant effects from such investment come only a year or two after FDI firms commit themselves to start actual operation in a host country.

*Promoting Human Rights in a Globalizing World: Testing the Smart Sanctions Tool in Zimbabwe*

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**Abstract:** The accelerating pace of globalization is leading to magnanimous interconnectedness. As a result of the advanced interweave of cultural, social, political and economic relations, collective instruments of international policy are becoming much easier to implement and coordinate, with positive consequences for governance and human rights. In 2002, the international community imposed smart sanctions on Zimbabwe because of its virulent abuse of human rights. Smart sanctions were intended to inflict coercive pressure on the government to reverse its human rights violations, at the same time preventing unintended humanitarian consequences. Using the case of smart sanctions in Zimbabwe, this paper discusses the extent to which the globalization process is supportive of effective implementation of international policies geared towards the promotion of human rights. While coordination and coherence is crucial in the successful implementation of smart sanctions to advance human rights, this paper also points out the extent to which international smart sanctions are a viable tool for advancing human rights without themselves being an abuse of human rights.

*Human Rights, Development and Democracy in the Age of Globalization: The Contradictions and Challenges, with Specific Reference to African Countries*

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**Abstract:** Globalization is one of the leading characteristics of the world today – a world that is striving for development, democracy and the protection of human rights. There is no doubt that the relationship between globalization and democracy is quite complex. So too is the relationship between globalization and development. Moreover, the structural and institutional changes associated with globalization have a significant impact on the protection of human rights, particularly in the developing world. The impact of globalization on an already complex relationship between human rights, development and democracy is perhaps more prominent on the African continent than elsewhere in the world. This is due to the unique circumstances and peculiar challenges that African countries have faced in the recent past and continue to face in the present and immediate future. Such challenges include poverty, hunger and famine, armed conflicts, poor governance, crime, corruption, unemployment, low levels of education, lack of skills and resources, and the prevalence of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. Besides reflecting on the impact of globalization on development, democratization and the protection of human rights, this paper explores the various contradictions that arise out of the relationship among these concepts. It also highlights the peculiar challenges that underlie and further complicate this relationship in the specific context of African countries.

*Globalization and the Right to Life and Liberty in Malaysia: Opposing Influences on the Internal Security Act*

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**Abstract:** Globalization has had both positive and negative impacts on human rights in Malaysia. Malaysia is one of the few countries in the world that has preventive detention laws on its statute books. Under the 1960 Internal Security Act (“ISA”), the government may detain persons whom it deems to be threats to the country’s national security indefinitely without trial. Local and international critics have always condemned the ISA for being contrary to human rights and the rule of law. The globalized threat of terrorism since September 2001 however has provided the Malaysian government new justifications for the ISA. The ISA, it argues, is necessary to combat terrorism both locally and internationally. Countries that were traditionally critical of the Malaysian government’s use of the ISA such as the United States now in turn adopted similarly anti-liberty actions in its supposed War against Terror, thus indirectly legitimizing the use of the ISA. On the other hand, globalization has fueled an opposing force in Malaysian society. Increased interconnectivity and freedom of information has led to an infusion of international human rights ideology within Malaysian society and is precipitating the rise of civil society in the country. The Human Rights Commission (SUHAKAM) and other human rights movements such as the Abolish ISA Movement (AIM) have increasingly appealed to international human rights law and international human rights groups to pressure the government to abolish the ISA, or at least to be more wary of using the draconian law. Although the judiciary has yet to accept the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as part of Malaysian law, several new cases involving ISA detainees show that the judiciary is increasingly accepting of a more rights-protective philosophy in their adjudication. This paper will examine these rights-protective cases in light of the opposing influences that globalization is placing upon the right to life and liberty of the person in Malaysia.

*Margaritaville: Motivations for Expatriate Migration*

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**Abstract:** People from the northern, industrialized world frequently use southern, tropical nations as tourist destinations, resulting in temporary, often seasonal, shifts in the demographic and economic conditions in the host nation. This pattern of one-sided tourist migration is part of globalization, especially with the growing ease of travel. Increasingly, tourist destinations are becoming the residential locations of choice for expatriating retirees from northern nations and the scale of this process of tropical relocation is likely to grow with the “coming of age” of the baby-boom generation in the global North. But what motivates the phenomenon of expatriate immigration? This paper argues that relocating retirees are likely to have a pre-constructed expectation of life in a foreign, tropical setting based both on prior personal experience and on representations of these places, leading them to the creation of an idealized conception of place, or even a simulacrum, a “simulated reality.” To adjust to life in their new setting, the retirees will need to develop a sense of “place identity”, however it is proposed that this process may be protracted if there are inconsistencies between the real daily-life experiences and the preconceived, idealized expectations.

*Oil Violence and Prospect of Fair Justice in the Niger Delta of Nigeria:  
A Critical Analysis of the Major Social Movements in the Region*

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**Abstract:** The Niger Delta region has witnessed a protracted violence for almost five decades over the issues of environmental degradation, political marginalization and total denial of access to oil wealth from the land. However, this crisis took a new dimension in the early 1990s as oil became a major source of foreign exchange and the derivation formula was changed in favour of the federal government with negative consequences for the local people (the need to maintain constant flow of oil have resulted to gross violation of the local people's rights by the state and the oil multinationals) especially under the military regimes. The entrenchment of democracy in the late 1990s further escalated the tripartite conflict between the state, oil multinationals and host communities as the complex crisis drew global attention. The formation of Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP) and Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) in the 1990s to challenge the abuse of human rights over four decades was overwhelmed applauded by the local people of the region. More importantly, MOSOP was the first social movement in the region to have internationalized the plight of the local people while IYC took over from the period when MOSOP had some internal crises that undermined its struggle. Equally, the achievements of MOSOP and IYC have instigated the formation of other social movements in the Niger Delta as a whole. The pressure from these social movements might have accounted for sudden change of policies by the state and the major oil multinationals in the mid 1990s. However, the fundamental question is to what extent the social movements (MOSOP/IYC) and international civil society have been successful with the issue of human rights abuse in the region.

*Globalization and the Commercialization of Humanity: The State, Trafficking in Persons and Human Rights Challenges in Africa*

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**Abstract:** The ‘commercialization of humanity’ is a phenomenon inextricably tied to the geopolitical transformations of the last two decades, occasioned by the increasing connectivity and interdependence of the global market. Trafficking may also be viewed in the broader framework of rebalancing the micro-economic gaps which characterize globalization. Example, uneven distribution of wealth and lack of opportunity accompanied by unemployment push individuals to areas where there is demand for their labour. However, the global concern about the entire scenario of trafficking emerges from its links with human rights and globalization. This study will suggest that the ability of the States in Africa to control human trafficking and enforce human rights is a function of the States’ total capacity to control crime, maintain peace and security, and ensure good governance. And in all of these contexts, African states are lacking. The receiving end, i.e the recipients of trafficking, lies outside the theatres, and thus is not in control. Existing models for explaining trafficking are overly rudimentary. This research represents an attempt to bring the diverse elements of trafficking together to approximate a description of actual trafficking organization. In addition, the paper will discuss the character of the State in Africa to explain why trafficking and human rights violation may continue for some time to come.

*The World Bank, Natural Resource Extraction, and Human Rights in Africa*

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**Abstract:** The World Bank Group is engaged in the exploitation of natural resources in Africa through the provision of loans, equity participation, insurance, and political risks guarantees to governments and corporate entities. The Bank's involvement in the extractive sector is often premised on its poverty-alleviation mandate. However, rather than alleviating the sufferings of Africans, some extractive projects financed by the Bank may be exacerbating human rights abuses in the continent. This paper undertakes a critical assessment of the World Bank's involvement in Africa's extractive industries, including an examination of its social safeguard policies. Using the example of two recent projects – the West African Gas Pipeline Project, and the Chad-Cameroon Oil Development and Pipeline Project, the paper argues that although the World Bank policies are well-intended, they have had few positive impacts due to poor implementation. The paper suggests substantive changes to the implementation of the policies with a view to improving their impacts.

*Multinational Enterprises and Protection of Human Rights – Non-Financial Reporting as an Option*

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**Abstract:** International human rights instruments and organizations recognize positive and negative obligations of non-State entities such as multinational enterprises (MNEs). A link increasingly is made between business conduct and broader social values and expectations. Evidence suggests a recent proliferation of corporate social reports, emerging from the acceptance and recognition of wider corporate responsibility and accountability. Among business organizations MNEs often engage in such reporting (which usually contains human rights issues), since increasingly social reputation (including human rights) is important to modern corporations. MNEs are particularly affected by direct and indirect corporate activity in developing countries. Implications of negative human rights reports may be far reaching and may provoke consumer, investor and other responses. This paper examines the regulation of human rights reporting by MNEs as a (indirect) mechanism for protecting human rights in developing countries. Critical to the question are issues of credibility, transparency, legitimacy, regulatory strategy and liability for false, deceptive or misleading reporting.

*Creditors in Competition: Chavez and the Bank of the South versus the IMF*

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**Abstract:** Since coming to power Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez has been a charismatic and polarising figure. To many of the rich and those on the political right that champion the IMF as the saviour of the poor he is seen as a dangerous and destabilizing factor in Globalisation's mission to raise the poor out of poverty. These feelings have now been exacerbated as he has set up the Bank of the South in opposition to the IMF in Latin America, as the IMF has traditionally been the biggest lender to the region. However, to many of the poor and those on the political left he is seen as a visionary people's champion against the ravages of Globalisation, as they argue his policies have greatly benefited Venezuela's poor and the poor of the Latin American region in general, especially now that the Bank of the South is poised to continue those policies region wide. These people argue that the biggest beneficiaries of the IMF policies in the past were the rich and the MNC's that operated in the region, whereas they argue that the Bank of the South's policies will actually benefit the borrowers and by extension the poor. Also, as an oil rich nation Venezuela has the money to lend, as its oil finances were boosted by the effects of the US / UK invasion of Iraq on world oil prices. The recent fall in oil prices will therefore need to be examined to see to what extent this will affect Chavez's plans and the long term economic future of the region in terms of development loans from Venezuela and the Bank of the South. This paper will examine all these issues in detail by paying particular attention to the relevant background history as this is necessary to understand the motives of the various actors in the present as well as trying to understand what the ramifications for the future may be.

*Poverty and Hunger in the Developing Countries: The Ethical Dimensions of Global Economy and Human Survival*

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**Abstract:** The large numbers of hungry people living in a global economy based on industrialization, privatization, and free-trade (IPF), raises the question of the ethical dimension of the worsening food-crisis in the world in general and in the developing countries in particular. Who bears moral responsibility for the tragic situation in Africa and Asia, where people are starving due to poverty? Who is morally responsible for their poverty – the hungry people themselves? the international community? any particular agency or institution? In the context of the Article 3 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which says that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security,” the ethical question of poverty and hunger becomes a major human concern that should be discussed publicly and resolved immediately by whatever means available. How can those poor and hungry people realize their rights to life and security if their survival is in danger? As an ethicist, I believe that responsibility for global poverty lies with the current (neo-capitalistic) trend of global economy and with those individuals and organizations who, though small in number, have acquired a large proportion of the assets and financial resources. If this is so, our monetary and financial policies need a drastic change with regard to global responsibility towards starving people. I will contend that the economy should be promoted, but not at the cost of collective human ethics.

People-Net *against Poverty*

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**Abstract:** An underlying principle in human rights thinking is that all people must have the possibility to advance their lives based on the maxims of human value and dignity. Emerging ICTs hold many promises of providing effective means for impoverished and uneducated people to acquire the knowledge and tools they need, but the digital divide or gap has remained an immediate threat to productive and sustainable ICT use among the poor. *People-net* is a service concept, which is designed to ensure and enrich access by the world's poor need to concrete and effective information they need to advance their lives. An important type of information is "how-to"-knowledge about vital areas of life, ranging from business to health affairs. The key idea is to exploit mobile internet technologies, focusing on human action-oriented and culturally-sensitive ISD initiatives. The practices of open-access, open-innovation and open-source communities are especially fertile for developing ecologically-valid, practical answers to concrete problems of poor people in their natural environments. This concept we call *People-net*, as it is intended to connect people with critical knowledge resources regarding the every-day activities of knowledge-needing poor people.

*Democracy in Pakistan: Crisis and Conflicts*

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**Abstract:** Among the more fascinating themes in contemporary South Asia has been the ‘success’ of democracy in India and its ‘failure’ in neighboring Pakistan. Yet studies of democratic politics in India and the military-dominated authoritarian State in Pakistan have rarely addressed, far less explained, why a common British colonial legacy led to apparently contrasting patterns of political development in post-independence South Asia.

Pakistan came into existence in 1947 as a parliamentary democracy. In 1954, that government was dissolved and the path opened for the military rule which has characterized much of Pakistan’s history. Four direct military interventions (1958-69), (1969-71), (1977-88) and (1999-2008), the duration of which comes more than half of the country’s total age, reflect the deeper roots of military’s shadow on the democratic set up of Pakistan. During this period, the introduction of four Constitutions again highlights this society’s inconsistency for rule of law.

This paper will discuss the conflicts and crises that characterize the democratic process of Pakistan, a polity in a state of transition from an authoritarian system to a democratic order. The paper will also discuss the widely-held notion that the issue of democracy as opposed to authoritarianism in Pakistan has not been finally settled.

*Polarization and Paradox: Myanmar Democratization as a  
Manifestation of the Exclusionary Function within Globalization*

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**Abstract:** The political debate surrounding democratization in Myanmar can be likened to the classic paradox of, “What happens when an irresistible force meets an immovable object?” Globalization in its present manifestation is often described as unstoppable. Likewise, the Myanmar regime continues to be (wrongly) defined as obstinate. Such polarization has encased the public debate over democratization in Myanmar, and has resulted in inertia and exclusion. Even though globalization has facilitated the global social movement for democratization in Myanmar, and while the impact of this on Western governments’ policies may be evidence of consolidated democracy, the majority of the citizens of Myanmar have been excluded from the benefits of globalization. Paradoxically, because the debate has been framed by the architects of globalization, the citizens of Myanmar have been deprived of the right to development *by* globalization, and importantly, this is despite the overwhelming theoretical, historical and empirical evidence that postulates economic growth and prosperity as key preconditions for democratic transition/ consolidation. While it is no doubt true that, at one pole, the government of Myanmar perpetuates and exploits this exclusion, it equally true that, at the other pole, the same exclusion is perpetuated and exploited. This is the exclusionary function of globalization.

*Human Rights Consciousness among Welfare Recipients in Hong Kong*

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**Abstract:** It is often argued that Asian societies are different from Western countries, as far as human rights awareness is concerned. It is often deemed that human rights consciousness remains under-developed in Asian states. Has there been a rise in human rights awareness in Asia in the past decade? To answer this question, this presentation looks at human rights consciousness and knowledge among welfare recipients in Hong Kong, China. Numbers of welfare recipients have been growing in Hong Kong in the past years. After the financial crisis of 1997, the government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region introduced a series of welfare-to-work programs with an intent to reduce increasing welfare rolls and move people back to work. Recently, the government launched the Enhanced Community Work Experience and Training Program (ECW) which combines work requirements with training. The issue of rights versus responsibilities often arises in Hong Kong: welfare recipients are in the unique position of asserting their right to welfare while the government is strongly demanding work compliance from them. In actuality, are there conflicts between rights assertion and societal demand for self reliance among welfare recipients? The respondents of our study come from several welfare-to-work programs including Enhanced Community Work Experience and Training Program (ECW) and Community Work (CW) in Hong Kong. With the aid of a longitudinal survey of ECW and CW recipients, this presentation looks at the how welfare recipients view these programs and whether they feel their right to welfare is compromised by the work requirements of the program.

*From Globalization to Globality: A Profile of Chinese Returnees*

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**Abstract:** In the past two decades, globalization is the key issue facing business, governments and social life of every citizen on earth. With the liberalization of trade, investment and a fast migrating population, globalization brings opportunity as well as problem. Globality is a new phenomenon, which is different from Globalization. It is a name for a new and different global reality in which business flows in every direction. For example, recent trends showed the increasing number of Chinese managers (particularly those who had finished their management study or work abroad) replacing expatriate managers Sino-foreign JVs and WFOEs (Wholly Foreign Owned Enterprises), taking senior management positions in government-related departments or simply starting their business based on entrepreneurship. However, research on cross-culture re-adjustment implies that employees feel frustration, depression and symptoms of culture shock upon their return to the home cultural settings (Hurn, 1999; Rodrigues, 1996). This calls for re-adjust to changes, such as home working and social environment (Forster, 2000; Black et al, 1992). In addition, the values of these returnees on human rights, job satisfaction and other key cultural value indicator may change. Based on the model of Hofstede cultural dimension theory, this research will focus on the returning Chinese managerial individuals' experience of international transfer, psychological and sociocultural re-adjustment issues in governments and business field in China.

*The Duty to Protect against Human Rights Violations Committed Abroad  
by Transnational Companies and their Subsidiaries*

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**Abstract:** Human rights violations committed by Transnational Companies (TNC's) in developing countries have been broadly reported by NGOs the last years. Normally, each State should ensure the protection of the victims of those violations by providing them an appropriate and effective remedy. However, it appears that States where the violations are committed are sometimes not willing or are not able to fulfill their duty. Nevertheless, TNC's are often based in Western countries. This paper aims to investigate through the liability of so called "home countries" for allowing the TNC's based on their own territory to commit human rights violations abroad. One of the key issues will be the analysis of the extraterritorial aspect of the duty to protect resulting from the two Covenants of 1966 and the ECHR. The questions to be answered are whether and to which extend States have to control their TNC's and to provide an appropriate and effective remedy to their victims.