

GLOBAL & TRANSNATIONAL SOCIOLOGY

Qualifying Exam — Fall 2018

The questions below constitute the qualifying exam for Global and Transnational Sociology. To complete the exam, you must answer one question from each of the three sections below in an essay format. Each answer should be a self-contained essay approximately 8-10 pages long (i.e., 2,000-2,500 words). Although you must cite to referenced work in each essay, one comprehensive bibliography for all three questions will be sufficient. You may consult materials from the reading list you've been provided, as well as any other scholarly sources you've read during the exam period.

A. Choose one of the following:

1. Although globalization is arguably a contested concept, the opening of international borders over the past 70 years to flows of free trade, direct investment, information and technology, and to a lesser extent, immigration has clearly had an impact on the people of the world, including YOU. Draw from a wide array of the required readings to explain how YOUR economic, social, and political life has been impacted by globalization.
2. What does the global justice movement, broadly conceived, identify as the primary sources of global injustice? What alternative policies and programs does the movement seek to advance and how likely are they to be transformative and why?

B. Choose one of the following:

1. Some scholars equate globalization with neoliberal capitalism. Summarize this argument including the key concepts they mobilize then evaluate the claim, stating clearly whether and why you agree with it or not.
2. Some scholars equate globalization with westernization. Summarize this argument including the key concepts they mobilize then evaluate the claim, stating clearly whether and why you agree with it or not.

C. Choose one of the following:

1. Globalization has caused an intense debate between its proponents and its opponents. Some enthusiastically have supported the process of globalization while others have strongly attacked it. Describe and discuss clearly the position of each side, and explain why they take the position they do. And what do YOU think about their arguments; which position do YOU support and why?
2. The upsurge of religious fundamentalism and ethnic nationalism in the world since the 1970s have often been attributed to the intense globalization and the crisis of modernity. Discuss how plausible is this attribution? Explain clearly how the argument is made, what is the place of the 'clash of civilization'? thesis in this argument, and what is your own position and why?