

GLOBAL & TRANSNATIONAL SOCIOLOGY

Qualifying Exam – Spring 2020

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.

This qualifying exam is to be completed in two weeks. The evaluation of the exam will take two weeks. You will be notified of your performance by email. Make sure that the office has your up-to-date contact information. Please use the identifying student number that you have been assigned at the top of your exam. The exams are graded confidentially and numbers only will be used to identify the author of the exam. See Graduate Handbook for any further details.

A. 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.

B. Choose one of the following:

1. There is a prevailing argument proposed by many social scientists that globalization is culturally homogenizing. Yet others have suggested that globalization also instigates desires and demands for difference, practically deepening cultural differentiation. Discuss what is the reasoning, proposed by which scholar, behind each of these opposing arguments. Explicate how plausible these understandings of cultural identity and difference at the global level are. Develop and defend your own position.
2. In the debate about modernity, some scholars have suggested that there is not one but many/multiple modernities? How plausible is the notion of "multiple modernities"? Does the notion of "multiple modernities" not imply simply different forms of modernities; or does it imply difference in kind, in substance? After all, what is the significance of this argument? Discuss.

C. Choose one of the following:

1. Select one book from the reading list that particularly interests you. Discuss the major contributions of that book, theoretically and/or empirically. Then, select three other scholars from the reading list and discuss how those three scholars would critique the book that you selected. What would they consider to be the book's contributions as well as its limitations? Why do you think so? Include in your answer at least one improvement that each scholar would recommend to the author to improve the contributions of their work.

2. Global and transnational sociology offers an approach to social inquiry that is different from longstanding methodological nationalist perspectives that are grounded on the assumption that the nation-state is the natural social and political form of the modern world. Compare and contrast global/transnational and methodological nationalist approaches to a substantive topic of your choosing; e.g. immigration, poverty, crime. Your discussion should explain how the different approaches produce alternative understandings of the topic.