



Global and Transnational Sociology | Exam Fall 2023

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 referenced work in each essay, one comprehensive bibliography for all three questions will be sufficient. You may consult materials from the reading list that you have been provided, as well as any other scholarly sources you have 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. Good luck!

A. 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. 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.

B. Choose one of the following:

1. Social movements can be understood as groups of people organized to make claims on or resist actions by national states. In recent years, however, social movements have become increasingly transnational in their structure and focus. Under what conditions does contention grow beyond its localized beginnings to become a force for transnational change? Stated differently, how do local contentious episodes spread to other locales?
2. Consider the following statement: "The importance of the state is diminishing in the face of increasing global economic integration and the rise and spread of transnational corporations, INGOs, and transnational social movement organizations." Do you agree with this assessment? Discuss arguments for and against it and defend your position.

C. Choose one of the following:

1. Space, territoriality, and scale have become key analytical lens for scholars of neoliberal globalization. Review the ways in which different authors mobilize these terms, their definitions, and explain why they are needed in transnational and global sociology.
2. What are the ways that Postcolonial Studies and Poststructuralism have influenced Global and Transnational Sociology? What classical sociological concepts and theories have these new approaches critiqued and why?