

SOCIOLOGY of DEVELOPMENT

Qualifying Exam — Fall 2018

The questions below constitute the qualifying exam for **Sociology of Development**. 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. The early 1990s saw an important debate around the 'post-development' paradigm, both for and against this paradigm. Explain what the 'post-development' paradigm is; what are its key arguments; what are the merits of those arguments (if any), and on what grounds post-development paradigm has been criticized. Finally, discuss what you think of this paradigm.
2. Recently there has been a critical take on the work of the development NGOs in the developing world. Some scholars have described these NGOs as a kind of 'anti-politics machine'. Taking cues from Anaya Roy and James Ferguson, discuss how justified these criticisms are, and what you think of them. Discuss critically.

B. Choose one of the following:

1. The supposed aim of participatory approaches to development is to make 'people' central to development by encouraging beneficiary involvement in interventions that affect them and over which they previously had limited control or influence. What are the ways in which participation can be achieved? What's the measure of participation and how must one judge it? How can the tension between participation as a goal and as a method be resolved? Under what conditions have participatory approaches increased the capabilities that are of concern to Amartya Sen?
2. What is meant by the term 'developmental state?' According to Evans, what is the role of the state in development planning? How applicable is his view of the state's role in sectoral development in the current era of fragmented global production (as a consequence of outsourcing)? To what extent is the protectionist state intervention he advocates in tension with commitments to global trade agreements?

C. Choose one of the following.

1. Poststructuralist approaches have reinvigorated social science inquiry into development. Demonstrate what is novel about these perspectives using Li, Mosse, Ferguson and Roy.
2. The seeming paradox of the development project is that over its 70-year history, it tended to increase the gap between the poorest and the richest countries. What quantitative data support this? How do different authors explain this trend?