

Key Issues Linked to Globalization

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1. Fallacies

- Globalization as an eschatological ideology/hegemonic sociodicy
- Globalization as a purely material phenomenon
- Globalization as a totally new phenomenon
- Globalization as utterly opposed to the local

2. Towards a Tentative and Heuristic Definition:

- Globalization as an episode of radical time-space compression (Harvey)
- Globalization as a tensile dialectic of deterritorialization and reterritorialization, homogeneity and heterogeneity, and of domination and resistance.
- The elective affinity between globalization and postmodernism: hybridity, ephemerality, complexity, and indeterminacy.

3. Dynamics at Play I: The Social and Economic Processes

- The debate on the transition from Fordism to Post-Fordism: Flexible accumulation and the rise of the informational society (Castells).
- Technological innovations in production, communication, and transportation: The network as the new social morphology.
- Transnational migration: a grassroots strategy to respond to changes in the global economy (Glick Schiller et al).

4. Dynamics at Play II: Political Processes

- The post-colonial condition: Re-defining empire (Hardt and Negri)
- Pressures on the nation-state: The emergence of alternative ways to organize space, time, and identity. Global consciousness (Robertson: the world as “a single place”), regional regimes (The European Community), transnational networks (churches, home town association, multilateral organizations and multinational corporations), the local (the city is “where it all comes together.”), the self (privatization of everyday life)

5. Dynamics at Play III: Cultural Processes

- The autonomization and commodification of cultural production
- The development of a culture of simulacra (Baudrillard)
- Virtual Reality and Cyberspace: disembodiment
- The global tension between detraditionalization and retraditionalization (S. Lash): The growth of Fundamentalist/Conservative movements based which make appeals to mythical origins and a often linked to ethnic and religious identity.

6. What Religion Offers

- Institutional Resources: Churches as flexible networks that help individual negotiate the tension among multiple spatio-temporal scales. Social Capital.
- Psycho-Cognitive Mapping (Jameson): worldviews, narratives, theologies, metaphors, etc. to makes sense and act in a global context.
- Hybrid identities in the context of syncretism
- The dimension of transcendence (beyond totalizing): utopias