

From the Left

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Internetworked Social Movements after 9-11

Doug Morris and Lauren Langman, Loyola University of Chicago

Social movement organizations mediated through the Internet can be thought of as internetworked social movements (ISMs). ISMs are organized through "mobilizing networks" or coordination structures that mediate and articulate new forms of identities and strategies for participation in social action that contest current social/global conditions.

We believe the emergence of internetworked social movements and their participatory mobilizing networks portends new forms of politics that integrate some of the structures and strategies of previous movements, while extending the possibilities of social movements in new directions, both democratic and anti-democratic. Internetworked webs of communication and social action inform movements today which have complex, dispersed, and quickly changing fields of decision making, coordination and issue construction. This is evident in political movements of the late 20th century, especially the alternative globalization movement (AGM), which started in the global south in the mid-eighties and grew from Seattle to Prague, Quebec, and Goteberg, reaching a peak in Genoa. The September 11 attacks also point to the importance of understanding network structures in terrorist organizations, especially those of global scope, facilitated via information media. This brief essay outlines some of the comparisons and contrasts in terms of internetworking between these two types of globalized ISMs, both of which resist the neoliberal western version of globalization.

The emergence of internetworked social movements requires us to think outside of the "boxes" of the dominant theoretical models. Buechler (2000) notes that contemporary social movements are not easily understood by any single research paradigm. In social movements, grievances and ideologies are (cont. next page)

Against Terrorism and Bush's Drive to War: For a New Society Free of War and Exploitation!

Kevin Anderson, Michael Klaas, Jesse Kelln, Tim Meegan, Anthony Sigismondi, and Janet Smith of the Marxist Humanist Forum, Northern Illinois University

The September 11 terrorist attack on New York and Washington, DC unleashed a level of destruction not seen in the U.S. in over a century. It appears to have been carried out by extreme conservative Islamic fundamentalists led by Osama Bin Laden. Over 5000 people, most of them ordinary working people, are now presumed dead. We are outraged by this action, which has nothing whatsoever to do with any humanist or Marxist opposition to capitalism, as seen in the recent protests in Quebec and Genoa. We also note that it is above all the workers of New York and across America who have come together to volunteer their labor for the rescue and recovery effort.

In addition to the immediate horrors of September 11, we also face a second danger -- the Bush administration's drive to war and its push for militarization at home and abroad. The events of September 11 have strengthened one of the most conservative and backward-looking administrations in U.S. history, one that supports the death penalty, opposes labor unions, and fights against the rights of women, lesbians, and gays.

Even before September 11, it had planned on a vast military build-up, to include for the first time the militarization of space itself. Bin Laden and his Islamic fundamentalist allies have long oppressed the people of Afghanistan and have already murdered thousands of Muslims. At present, the Taliban regime of Afghanistan forbids women to vote, attend school, work outside the home, or even go onto the streets without a male guardian present. Listen to the message to the American people of the Revolutionary Association of Afghan Women (RAWA), a feminist group that has been fighting since 1977 for a secular, democratic (cont. p. 4)

(internetworked social movements- cont. from p. 1) articulated or framed in organizing mobilization strategies across diverse social terrains (varying nation, state, and cultural spheres) and we would add, increasingly across a wide variety of interactive media.

We need to consider different levels of analysis with different paradigms and different cultural backgrounds to understand the complexity of globalized ISMs. However, there are some common social threads, whether movements be of a progressive or reactionary traditionalist/terrorist sort. First, one can detect the emergence of a global collective identity in the rhetoric of movement organizing and the discussion of alternative models for social development (whether of global social justice in the case of the AGM or global messianic fundamentalism)-- which is necessary to provide cohesion across many distinct local cultural contexts and nations.

Second, the mainstream press consistently focuses on a small part of globalized ISMs, the property destruction by at most a few percent of AGM protesters or the vile acts of the most extreme terrorists. A few right wing commentators have even conflated these two movements. The mainstream media usually ignores the work of various AGM intellectuals in offering detailed analysis of social inequality and oppressive domination based on policies for neoliberal economic globalization and the operations of Transnational corporations, international economic institutions such as the IMF, WB, and WTO and the imperialistic neocolonial actions of the United States and G-8. The mainstream media also often ignore the criticisms of cultural and economic hegemony and oppression offered by non-Western intellectuals and the relief work and community building attempted by some terrorist (resistance) organizations.

Third, beyond large protest actions and specific acts of resistance, information age movements include four different types of Internet based action (Langman et al 2001):

1) internetworking to mobilize actions, 2) alternative net based media and encrypted communications, 3) direct cyberactivism, and 4) in the case of AGMs, the advocacy of alternative social justice models addressing technological literacy and the bridging of the digital divide and in the case of terrorist movements, the critique of the contradictions in Western social traditions and forwarding of more traditional social models and yet the use of high tech communications

and potentially high tech instruments for terrorist actions.

To focus on the case of the 9-11 attacks and their aftermath in light of the above, consider some of the consequences of pursuing convention tactics against terrorist internetworking:

In terms of conventional war: 1) the humanitarian consequences on the civilians of Afghanistan are potentially catastrophic 2) war is not a solution; it is the cause of perpetuating the cycle of violence.

In social terms: 1) we are losing civil rights in the process of this war 2) various social problems at home are being ignored.

In terms of networks of political influence: 1) a war on a fundamentalist Islamic network across 60 nations can not be won 2) the war may lead to more terrorism, not less 3) the 9-11 attack was the reaction to U.S. imperialism in the Middle East; the current policies are more of the same 4) In the Middle East, the U.S.A. is supporting kingdoms and military regimes, which oppress their people 5) Bush may be giving Taiwan to the Chinese over this 6) Russia is being let off the hook in Chechnya.

In terms of economic relations: 1) the world could go into severe depression - engendering at this stage in history probably more fascism and various types of dictatorship, rather than progressive revolutions 2) tax handouts to the rich are pushed through congress 3) one wonders to what extent taking it easy on corporate offenders such as Microsoft is getting easier play 4) this war is being used to justify expansion of oil interests, including drilling in Artic natural wildlife refuge.

In terms of terrorist internetworking: 1) biological terrorism can not be stopped 2) we can never be invulnerable to suitcase/small nuclear weapons 3) there are dozens of ways to disrupt civil society.

In terms of the media networks: 1) the conservative press is demonizing various third world resistance and AGM protestors, conflating their efforts with those of terrorists, 2) liberal voices in the media and academia have been censured 3) the internet is now being pervasively monitored.

Yet, the internet remains a dynamic realm of: 1) internetworking by movements to mobilize the emergent anti-war movement (in addition to drawing on and reinforcing ongoing movements 2) alternative media criticizing and linking the war and neoliberal globalization and western imperialism 3) continuing instances of(cont. p. 4)

Marxist Sociology, Today and Tomorrow

Lauren Langman, Chair of Marxist Section

These are the times that try people's souls. Trying to craft a vision in the shadows of WTC/Pentagon, where indeed one of our members, Sam Friedman, worked is very difficult. The membership of our section, like the American left in general have seen a major division in our ranks after US military intervention. For many of us, at least of what might be called the Vietnam generation, politicized by the unjust use of imperial force to suppress a socialist/nationalist uprising, folks are appalled at the use of force in Afghanistan that is aimed at toppling the government (a practice we have done quiet often), dismantling El Queda as a terrorist organization, and eliminating Usama Bin Laden- with extreme prejudice as they say in the spy flicks. We would all note the Faustian bargain capital made with the house of Saud in 1945 where we guaranteed them military protection from without and trained them to prevent dissent from within. A class of despicable capitalists joins a class of despicable royals. Rarely has hypocrisy, duplicity and ingratitude attained such levels as practiced by the House of Saud, who embrace Wahhabism, a rigorously puritanical form of Islam. In any event, this established the basis of later opposition to the House of Saud, the financing of fundamentalist schools/the madrassahs of Pakistan, and of course Bin Laden and El Queda.

Following embassy bombings, attacks on the USS Cole, the US has attempted to arrest, retaliate or otherwise disable Bin Laden. But after 5,000+ died in NY and Washington, the Marxist analysis and response has been divided. Those who focus on the political economic factors (that's spelled O-I-L), condemn the attacks. Cultural Marxists broadly defined, speaking for myself, would argue that while capitalism created the conditions that enabled the rise of El Queada, a highly anti-modern, authoritarian terrorist organization, they nevertheless committed an act of war, or at least its global version against the US and promise to unleash far more deadly weapons- if not soon, then in the relatively near future. This rift has produced some very interesting debates on the Progressive Sociologist Network (psn@csf.colorado.edu). Following these debates has shown the richness of our perspective, its openness to debate, and the ability of parties to violently disagree- yet

maintain respect for each other's basic integrity. For younger students, a variety of historical/ethical questions have been debated, from the fire bombing of Dresden to the creation of justifying facts from the Reichstag fire, to the Polish "attack" on German radio stations, to the Tonkin Gulf resolution. Is self defense justified in the international political economy? Was the attack on Serbia a just war? Were the founding fathers terrorists?

In any event the debate will continue and I would hold that we, as Marxists, are especially well located to analyze the issue and take actions, organize teach ins, rallies, etc. It was of course prescient that in Anaheim, we decided to do sessions on globalization and on Marxist feminism. We would all agree that the nature of capitalist globalization is such that makes imperialism of *Empire* inevitable. Further, we are especially sensitive to the relations of political economy and gender and the extent to which religious fundamentalism of every stripe shares one thing in common, subjugation of women. Rarely does this subjugation attain the levels of Taliban.

We are now in a historically unique moment for our Marxist approach. In all our departments, classes, offices and even recreational locations (bars), the topics of war, peace, imperialism, extremism, fundamentalism, subjugation of women, anthrax, nukes, are being hotly debated. When we move from the global to the local, we can see in stark relief how capital operates, in the face of war and death it would secure pharmaceutical company profits, oppose federalizing air safety, bail out corporations- but not the unemployed. I would argue, that despite our differences, and indeed because of them, our framework(s), in the broadest sense, Marxist sociology is most able to shed light on the events of the current world- and not hide behind some cloak of "value neutrality" that mystifies the role of political economy in social life and world affairs.

In the next few months we are undertaking a number of initiatives to increase our membership and visibility in the ASA. *I would again ask every member to enroll just one person, we will pay the first year's dues for a student.* If, or should I say when, our membership gets close to 600, we will be taken more seriously. Further, in our classes, our understandings of capitalist political economy, exploitation and alienation, of ideology and politics, of gender, character, media, education etc. seem to be finding more (cont. next page)

(Chair Statement, cont. from p. 3) and more interest. Unlike just a few years ago, most campuses have activist organizations that tend to be red, green, pink etc, that all share our critique of capitalism and its forms of domination.

Further, and not under the auspices of the section, but perhaps of interest, next May, I am organizing a conference on Critical Approaches to Globalization- this is for lefties and progressives who have often felt lost at most conferences on globalization.

Do plan to come to Chicago next August, bring your friends and family (remember I do the restaurant guide, with Gary Fine), and you will find our sessions among the really best you've been to.

In solidarity,
Lauren

(Internetworked Social Movements, cont. from p. 2) cyberactivism and hacking aimed at corporations and occasionally states— which will probably only increase 4) sites of alternative knowledge creation and social planning.

Militaristic and oppressive social responses, while being effective state means in targeting various local forms of dissent, will not effectively curtail the organizing of internetworked movements, whether promising social justice visions or traditionalist reactions— which will simply go undercover and covertly online for a time, to be expressed probably in occasional, powerful, unpredictable eruptions.

How to address long standing grievances and injustices based in the hundreds of years of political economic domination by European powers of other societies and their own workers is very complicated and must address in positive and constructive ways the issues underlying the often horrific consequences outlined above. This is further complicated by the flexible permutations of global capitalism in its many oppressive expressions— capital also is flexible: challenged here, it shifts over there. The solutions to the injustices of global capitalism, if any, will probably be global in scope, if more empowering of localities.

Today, to understand the potential of internetworked movements to pursue social change, we need to assess the development of new internetworking strategies, both in their creative and destructive moments. Those strategies by movements which resist neoliberal

globalization and those by media, police, and state both interrupt and counter-express flows of transportation, finances, communication, and information. Strategies of resistance and social transformation must take these dialectics and flows into account.

(Against Terrorism, cont from p. 1) democratic Afghanistan: "There is a vast difference between the poor and devastated people of Afghanistan and the terrorist Taliban criminals. While we once again announce our solidarity and deep sorrow with the people of the U.S., we also believe that attacking Afghanistan and killing its most ruined and destitute people will not in any way decrease the grief of the American people. We sincerely hope that the great American people could differentiate between the people of Afghanistan and an handful of fundamentalist terrorists."

We agree with RAWA and will protest Bush's drive to war. The Reverend Jerry Falwell, an American Christian fundamentalist, responded to September 11 by attacking women's rights, gay and lesbian rights, secularists, and the American Civil Liberties Union. He said that America's tolerance of such groups had caused God to remove a "curtain" of protection from the U.S., allowing the September 11 attack to take place. Falwell, who organized some crucial votes for Bush in the last election, is the American version of the Taliban!

An equally disturbing development in America has been the vicious racist attacks on people who are or "appear" to be Middle Eastern, including many people from the Middle East and South Asia. Most disgusting of all was the so-called "pro-America" demonstration in Bridgeview, where drunken youth tried to attack a mosque.

We oppose the American government's drive to war. At the same time, we oppose Falwell, Bin Laden, the Taliban, and all backward-looking, sexist, and fundamentalist movements, which seek to roll back the hard-won gains of women, workers, minorities, and the gay and lesbian community. We will continue to work for a new non-capitalist society free of exploitation, racism, sexism, and heterosexism, one where "the free development of each is the condition of the free development of all" (Marx). We call upon the whole NIU community -- whether radical, liberal, or conservative -- to join together in opposing both fundamentalist terrorism and the U.S. war drive.

A MEGA Update

Kevin Anderson, Northern Illinois University

In December 1998, the first post-Communist volume of the *Marx-Engels Gesamtausgabe* (Complete Writings or MEGA) came off the press at Akademie Verlag in Berlin. A number of leading newspapers and magazines, especially German ones, reported this event, but it has unfortunately not yet received much attention in the English-speaking world.

The just-published Volume IV/3, comprising Marx's 1844-47 excerpt notebooks, will be of great interest to those looking into the period between the *1844 Manuscripts* and *The German Ideology* (1846) as well as *The Communist Manifesto* (1848). Vol. IV/3 contains some 400 pages of Marx's excerpts from and commentary on leading political economists of the time such as Louis Say, Jean Charles Leonard Sismondi, Charles Babbage, Andrew Ure, and Nassau Senior. All of the material is published here in the original languages in which Marx wrote it. In this volume, much of the text is in French. The editors' notes, introductions, indexes, and other background material comprise an additional 400 pages, all in German.

In their general introduction to the volume, its editors -- Georgi Bagaturia, Lev Churbanov, Olga Koroleva, and Ludmila Varina of Moscow, working together with Juergen Rojahn of Amsterdam -- have analyzed these early explorations by Marx into both economic theory and the effects of capitalism on workers.

They have also taken care to show that Marx's interests are far broader than is generally realized. For example, they point out that "Marx takes up Sismondi's critique of colonialism," including references to Britain's infamous Opium Wars against China (p. 467). They also note that, at another point, Marx connects his critique of private property to one of the family, when he writes: "Should private property exist? Should the family exist?" (p. 471). Other notes by Marx on economist Pierre de Boisguillebert are related to what we know today as the *1844 Manuscripts*.

The new MEGA began to appear in 1975 in the former East Germany. (The first MEGA, begun in Soviet Russia during the 1920s, was killed off a decade later by Stalin's purges -- for background see my earlier article, "Uncovering Marx's Yet Unpublished Writings," N&L, Jan.-Feb., 1997.) Between 1975 and 1991, some 47 volumes appeared, with Vol. IV/3 in 1998 the

48th one. The total number of volumes projected stands at 122. In 1999, we can look forward to the publication of two more volumes. Vol. III/9 will comprise letters to and from Marx and Engels in 1858 and 1859. Vol. IV/31 is to include excerpt notebooks after 1879 by Marx on chemistry and by Engels on natural science and history.

After the collapse of Communism, funding for the MEGA dried up. New but more limited funding has since been obtained from Western foundations. At the same time, editorial standards have been raised and all political party controls eliminated. The near secrecy surrounding the editing process has been removed, permitting open debate on these matters for the first time since the 1920s. MEGA teams responsible for particular volumes now include scholars from The Netherlands, France, Japan, Denmark, and the U.S. Funding, especially for the editorial teams working in Moscow, has become very precarious recently, however. If this funding cannot continue, the work on some 19 MEGA volumes might have to be suspended.

As part of the current work on the MEGA, a new journal, *MEGA-Studien*, has been established. This journal, which appears twice a year, publishes articles and book reviews in German, English, and French. Besides articles on the tortured history of the MEGA and debates and reports regarding its editing, recent issues of the journal have carried discussions of the *German Ideology*, a series of articles on Engels, and one on the first edition of the *Communist Manifesto* in 1848.

One of the ways that people can support the work of the MEGA is by getting university and public libraries to purchase it. There are some large libraries in North America that have yet to order the MEGA. Unfortunately, because of extremely high production and editing costs, individual volume prices are quite high, but individuals who wish to do so can certainly purchase them. The International Marx-Engels Foundation based in Amsterdam, which oversees the work as a whole, can also accept donations from individuals or groups. (For details, see below.) It would indeed be tragic if the MEGA were once again to be discontinued before having completed its goal of publishing the whole of the writings of Marx and Engels.

For further information on purchasing copies of the MEGA, including library orders, contact the publisher: Akademie Verlag, Palisadenstrasse 40, D-10243 Berlin, FAX 49-

30-42200611, email: info@akademie-verlag.de. Akademie Verlag can send you their new brochure on Vol. IV/3, which describes the MEGA as a whole (available in English or German).

To donate funds to the MEGA, contact the International Marx-Engels Foundation (IMES), c/o Dr. Juergen Rojahn, International Institute of Social History, Cruquiusweg 31, AT-1019 Amsterdam, The Netherlands, or by email: jro@iisg.nl. To subscribe to the twice-yearly journal *MEGA-Studien*, also contact IMES. Subscriptions are 56 DM (about \$35) per year.

Northern Illinois University Receives Grant Funding For Research Projects

DE KALB — Handwritten notebooks of the late Karl Marx will no longer sit unpublished and unread, thanks to NIU Sociology Professor Kevin Anderson.

Anderson received a \$190,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to publish an edition of Marx's writings on non-western and pre-capitalist societies.

The highly competitive collaborative research grant will fund the international project joining researchers from the United States, Russia, Germany and the Netherlands. Together they will work from Marx's notebooks to produce an edited volume in English and German, the latter part of the ongoing *Marx-Engels Gesamtausgabe* (Complete Writings or MEGA) project.

NIU Professor Emeritus Heinz Osterle will assist with translations of Marx texts from German and Latin.

"I am very happy that our project received the funding that it needed from the NEH," Anderson said. "These writings from the last years of Marx's life concern a range of societies, from North Africa to Indonesia and from Latin America to ancient Rome. They show some important changes in Marx's thinking when compared to earlier works."

An earlier MEGA project in Russia in the 1920s fell victim to Stalin's reign, while the present one, which began in 1975 in Russia and East Germany, has been substantially reorganized with the help of Western scholars.

"These writings are among the dozens of volumes of Marx's work that have never been published in any language," Anderson said. "It is hoped they will appear in the coming years as part of the MEGA."

Other collaborators for the project include: David Norman Smith, University of Kansas;

Norair Ter-Akopian and Georgi Bagaturia, Russian Center for Conservation of Records of Modern History (RCChIDNI), Moscow; Juergen Rojahn, International Institute of Social History (IISH), Amsterdam, the Netherlands; and Danga Vileisis, Free University of Berlin, Germany.

Section on Marxist Sociology Chairperson's Report

Council Meeting: The council meeting of the Marxist section took place on the morning of the section day. Present were the chair, Lauren Langman, and council members, Talmadge Wright, Jeff Halley, David Smith and Jerry Lembke. The meeting was called to order. The first order of business was consideration of the program for the next year.

Given the recent demonstrations in Genoa, and the impending demonstration in Washington, we decided to do something on globalization, more specifically, critical views. It is the general practice of the section for the council to make one suggestion and entertain other suggestions offered at the business meeting.

We further discussed other section business, namely committee appointments/invitations. We have been especially concerned about declining memberships- a problem faced by many other sections. It seems that these enrollment problems were due in part to the annual meeting being in Anaheim- a place many chose to avoid and in turn, did not renew their memberships for the year. We also raised the question of the relation of Marxist sociology to include other critical perspectives and raised the question about changing the name to reflect this concern, e.g. Marxist and Critical Sociology.

Business Meeting: The business meeting was called to order by the chair. There were 38 members present. We began by presentations of section awards: Edna Bonacich and Richard Appelbaum won the outstanding book award for *Behind the Label*. The winner of the Symanski award for student paper went to Andrew Jones, and finally, the distinguished career award was presented to John Horton. There was a report of membership figures. The next order of business was to fill the committee assignments (see p. 8).

We then turned to the program for next year. The council recommendation of a session on "Critical Approaches to Globalization" was presented to the floor; it was accepted as especially timely given the recent demonstrations in Genoa. The (cont. on p. 8)

**Call for Papers: *Critical Sociology*
Special Issue on Religion and Marxism**

Classical Marxism, with its atheistic standpoint, has often neglected the forces leading to the social origins of religion and the impact of religions and religious institutions on society. It saw religion as an ideological mystification that assuaged suffering while sustaining social relations. Yet much like Marxism, religions have often demanded social justice in this world and have held a utopian promise.

Critical Sociology is seeking submissions for a special issue on Religion and Marxism. Possible topics may include: the relationship between dialectical idealism and materialism (Kant, Hegel, Feuerbach and Marx); Marxist critiques of religious ritual, mythology, theology and/or religion; the religious aspects of revolutionary social movements; the role of religion in social change; religion in state socialist societies; attempts to develop a Marxist sociology of religion; class analyses of religion; critical theories of religion; Capitalism, Americanism, and/or Marxism as secularizations of religious belief systems or as secular religions; dialectical theories of secularization; or any other topic that relates to the relationship between Marxism and religion.

Send paper proposals to David Fasenfest, *Critical Sociology*, Center for Urban Studies, Wayne State University, 656 W. Kirby, Detroit, MI, 48202. Deadline for Abstracts is January 15, 2002. Completed papers of accepted proposals are due by May 15, 2002. Be sure to indicate in your cover letter that the paper is for the special issue on religion.

From the Left seeks submissions

From the Left, the newsletter of the Marxist Section of the American Sociological Association, seek submissions for its Winter 2002 issue (maximum: roughly 1,000 words). Submissions can be articles, book reviews, announcements, or other items that you think may be of interest to section members. Please send submissions by e-mail to Warren Goldstein, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL. e-mail: wgoldste@mail.ucf.edu. Deadline February 1, 2002.

New Book: Levon Chorbajian, ed., *The Making of Nagorno-Karabagh: From Secession to Republic* (Basingstoke, England: Palgrave, 2001).

Contributions requested: ASA Teaching Resource Guide: *Teaching Sociology from a Marxist Perspective*

We seek contributions from those who teach sociology from a Marxist perspective as well as from those who teach Marxist theory. Please send your experience with innovative ways to teach Marxist ideas plus your Syllabi, study questions, handouts, test questions, classroom exercises, reading lists, bibliographies, recommended videos and films and any other instructional materials that work for you. Those of you who have contributed to the last edition, published in 1998, can either update or submit new materials. But I would like to encourage everyone to consider the possibility of contributing to this volume.

Send your materials on an IBM compatible disk (preferably in MSWord or Word Perfect) or in electronic form. The Deadline for Submissions is January 1, 2002. Send your contributions to: Martha E. Gimenez; Department of Sociology; Campus Box 327; University of Colorado at Boulder; Boulder, Colorado 80309; Voice: 303-492-7080; Fax: 303-492-8878; gimenez@csf.colorado.edu.

Join MSECTION (Marxist Section) Listserve

Please join the MSECTION list created to be used ONLY for Section business. The current membership roster is very incomplete and contains many outdated addresses, so that the list is relatively useless. Please join by sending your email address to gimenez@csf.colorado.edu and I will add you to the list. Do not hesitate to join: the list is used ONLY for Section business and it is private, so you will not receive adds and other junk mail.

Join PSN (Progressive Sociologists Network) Listserve

If you would like to exchange views with like minded colleagues, you can join PSN - Progressive Sociologists Network, by sending mail to majordomo@csf.colorado.edu. In the message proper simply write TWO words: subscribe PSN.

Marxist Section Homepage

<http://csf.colorado.edu/psn/marxist-sociology/index.html>. Please visit it and think of information and links you would like to add. If you are not included in the list of members and their interests, send me the information. Martha Gimenez- email: gimenez@csf.colorado.edu.

Awards/Nominations

1. Szymanski (Student Paper) Award Committee: Jackie Carrigan, Helen Raisz, and Rebecca Ravenscroft-Scott. Send papers to Jackie Carrigan; California State University-Sacramento; 6000 J Street Sacramento, CA 95819-6005; carrigan@skymail.csus.edu.
2. Lifetime Career Award: Martha Gimenez, Jerry Lembcke, and David Smith. Send nominations to gimenez@csf.colorado.edu.
3. Outstanding Book Award: Steve Rosenthal Corey Dolgon, and Paul Draus. Send nominations to steve-rosenthal@home.com.
4. Nominations Committee: Joanna Hadjicostandi, Jeff Halley and Talmadge Wright. Send recommendations for Chair and two council members to twright@luc.edu.

Conference Announcement: Critical Approaches to Globalization

The nature of globalization, as the contemporary articulation of Transnational Capital, replete with a new Trans national capitalist class, a configuration of state relationships, new forms of hegemony and of course misery, exploitation, poverty and disease- not to speak of new forms of opposition ranging from progressive Alternative Globalization movements to reactionary contestations that include various expressions of terrorism. Next May 12, Loyola University, in conjunction with the Global Studies Association will host a progressive conference critical of neo-liberal capitalism and its adverse consequences on the multitudes. A number of eminent scholars, critical of globalization are expected to attend including Leslie Sklair, Saskia Sassen, Doug Kellner, Carl Boggs, Mark Poster, Tim Luke and many others. If you are interested in joining us, presenting your work, organizing a panel, please let me know. Lauren Langman, chair, Marxist Section, Llang944@aol.com.

Chairs report (cont. from p. 6) chair elect, Ellen Rosen suggested we do a session on Marxist feminism. After a short discussion, it was accepted; Ellen will chair. We then suggested that if our membership figure show a massive increase and we get a third session, it would be on Alternative Futures; David Smith would chair. We then turned to the roundtables; Lauren and Ellen agreed to chair them. (Since they are already chairing sessions, Talmadge Wright agreed to chair them.)

Nominations: The nominations committee, noted above, consists of 3 members who

determine the needed qualifications for our elected officers, chair, and council. There is a call to the membership for nominations. Those nominated are asked to send information regarding qualifications. If qualified, they are asked to provide biographical information, records of service and academic contributions that are included with the ballots sent by ASA.

Goals for 2001-2: One of the most important goals for a section is to insure that its annual program not only stands at the cutting edges of sociological research and theory, but provides wide appeal not just to the members of the section, but informs the wider sociological audience of our scholarship. As noted above, following suggestions of council, and suggestions from the floor, we will have a session called "Critical Approaches to Globalization" and another one on Marxist Feminism. At the time of the meeting we did not realize how topical these choices would be given the events of September and October. Little did anyone anticipate that globalization would soon be a topic on the news- and the treatment of women in Afghanistan could be seen on televisions across the nation. We expect that our sessions will be especially timely next year. It is also possible for the section to sponsor a tour of Chicago focusing on its progressive and labor history (e.g., the Pullman factory, Haymarket riots, Hull House etc.).

One of our main goals for the coming year is to increase the section membership. We explored a number of ways to expand membership such as contacting all existing members, those who are no longer in the section, and finally, reaching out to some other sessions that share some or our same concerns.

We would also like to improve our web page and communication between members. We have a unique problem, one of the first soc. networks, progressive sociology network (psn@csf.colorado.edu) was established by Martha Gimenez 10 years ago. While it was not an official ASA forum, many of the people in the section joined the list. Since then, the list has become the unofficial forum for the section and as a result, the ASA website has been neglected. We are planning to update the page and make it more germane to the section and serve as a channel for more section communication, develop more links to other sites so that it might become useful for scholars and students researching new topics, staying abreast of new books, developments etc.