



Global Sociology in a Turbulent World

Geoffrey Pleyers

2024 Japanese Congress of Sociology - Kyoto

A world in crisis?

- Interconnected crises / a “policrisis”
- The crisis of democracy
- Ecological meltdown → a “crisis of civilization”

Is sociology in crisis?

Sociology is challenged from all sides:

- Reactionary actors
- Authoritarian leaders
- Social media, fake news

- A Eurocentric discipline
- False claim of universalism

An extraordinary time for sociology

A renewal of sociology that results from

1. Critical perspectives

→ feminism approaches, gender studies, subaltern, postcolonial and decolonial approaches, ...

2. Dynamic social sciences in the Global South

3. Sociology's openness to a renewed global dialogue.

New ways of seeing our world and sociology

An extraordinary time for sociology

Transformative impacts
of the dialogues with critical approaches

- Methods
- Concepts
- History of sociology
- Canons

Decolonial sociology

- A normative project? (democratize sociology)
 - Improve methodologies to conduct our fieldwork
 - Epistemology & false universalism
 - More robust concepts adapted to local and global realities
 - Decrease epistemological biases
 - Research Ethic

Ex: positionality (Haraway, 1988)

Concepts

New concepts

◇ Intersectionality: crucial to understand the pandemic

Revisiting concepts

Dialogue between Western and non-Western experience & concepts

Ex: Social capital, En & Aidagara (Y. Sato, 2010)

“Why is social capital, not *aidagara*, *en*, or *guanxi*, the universal sociological concept that describes social relations?”.

“a strategy to combine particularism and universalism in sociology”.

Concepts

- Latin America: Modernity (Dussel, 1994)
- India: the “English” industrial revolution
- Ecological transition:
Green Energy or “good life” with less consumerism?

Brazil: A new generation of researchers from different background

Global Sociology

From Americanization of sociology (Oomen, 1992)
to the challenge of Eurocentrism and including sociologies
from the East and the Souths

“Provincialize Europe” (Chakrabarty, 2000)

Decolonial approach: “not essentialist, not an anti-European critique.
It is a perspective critique of Eurocentric and Third World
fundamentalisms, colonialism, and nationalism.” (Grosfoguel, 2012)

“Pluriversalism” instead of universalism?

Pluralism, relativism & parochial localism vs. increasing interdependency

There is no “pluri-earth”

“Whether we want it or not, the fact remains that we all share this world”

“Global Sociology on a Limited Planet”



XXI ISA WORLD CONGRESS
OF SOCIOLOGY **2027**
GWANGJU, KOREA

A global dialogue that has renewed sociology

A sociology better equipped to analyze the challenges of our times



XXI ISA WORLD CONGRESS
OF SOCIOLOGY **2027**
GWANGJU, KOREA