



Globalization & Its Discontents

What exactly is "globalization"? How is it affecting our everyday life? Is it a novel phenomenon created by the unclashing of new economic and political forces and made possible by unprecedented advances in technology, as many commentators and pundits would have us believe? Or is it merely old wine in new bottles, as some critics lament?

One thing is certain. The topic of "globalization" generates passionate arguments, even violence, from many sides, often cutting across the usual political divides. Its advocates suggest that "globalization" will open up hitherto untapped resources and opportunities, serve to bring different nations, regions, and peoples together, and be instrumental in integrating the world in a new spirit of cooperation and unity. Its detractors, on the other hand, warn that it will widen rather than bridge the gap between the haves and the have-nots, erode the sovereignty of democratic states and the civil liberties of their citizens, and plunge the world under the control of giant transnational corporations driven solely by the profit motive.

Outside the United States, in particular, some fear that "globalization," coming on the heels of the end of the Cold War, is little more than a code word for the imposition of a new American political, economic, and cultural hegemony. One can perhaps appreciate these concerns after being exposed to the frequent displays of triumphalism in our mass media and by many of our politicians through the last decade.

This symposium will bring into focus some of these pressing issues. Its purpose is not to argue for or against "globalization." Rather, it aims to open up debate, stimulate further reflection, and provide a forum for perspectives that go beyond the US-centric views that tend to saturate our popular discourse on "globalization." The symposium brings together four distinguished speakers, literally from around the globe, from both within and outside the academic community. They will look critically at the impact of "globalization" on the fight against poverty, on sustainable development, on intellectual politics, and on our understanding of democracy. At a time when "globalization" and "internationalization" are the rallying cries across political, business, and academic circles, the symposium will offer a timely opportunity for us to move past the triumphalist and doomsday rhetoric, and to make a more sober assessment of this far-reaching and Janus-faced phenomenon.

Globalization & Its Discontents

Friday, September 28, 2001

A symposium presented by the Asian Studies Program, and the Departments of Germanic and Slavic Studies, Political Science, and Romance Languages and Literatures

For more information please contact:
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Office of the Dean (352) 392-0780

Globalization & Its Discontents

A symposium presented by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and the nascent Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere

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UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
Office of the Dean
201 & Turlegen Hall
PO Box 117300
Gainesville FL 32611-7300



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Friday, September 28, 2001

9:30 am–4:30 pm

Special Collections Research Room

2nd floor, George A. Smathers Library East



Schedule

Morning Session

9:30 am Welcome

Neil Sullivan

Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida

9:40 am *Globalization and the Fight*

Against World Poverty

Reiner Kraetsch

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Bonn, Germany

10:40 am *Globalization and Sustainable Development:*

A Vision from the South

Sarah Larrain

Director, Sustainable Chile Board Member, International Forum on Globalization

Lunch Break

11:30–1:00 pm

Afternoon Session

1:00 pm *The Weight of Nations:*

French Intellectual Politics and the Critique of 'Mondialisation'

Eric Fassin

Professor of History, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France

2:00 pm

Discipline, Democracy and the

Politics of the Multitude

Dipesh Chakrabarty

Professor of South Asian Languages and Civilizations and South Asian History, University of Chicago



Coffee Break

3:00–3:30 pm

Lobby outside Special Collections Room

Roundtable Discussion

3:30–4:30 pm



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About the Special Collections Research Room

Built in 1925 as a study hall for students, and later dubbed the Humanities Reading Room, the room is now headquarters for the Department of Special and Area Studies Collections. As the home of the university's specialized library collections in the humanities, social sciences and area studies, the site is an appropriate one for the symposium. Special thanks to Dale Canales, Director of the George A. Smathers Libraries; and Carl Van Nies, Department Chair of Special and Area Studies Collections for the use of the Special Collections Research Room.

Acknowledgments:

The Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere; Dean Neil Sullivan, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Dean Winifred Phillips, Vice-President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School; Dean Dennis Jett, University of Florida International Center.