



# Globalization & Its Discontents

What exactly is "globalization"? How is it affecting our everyday life? Is it a novel phenomenon created by the unleashing 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-centered 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

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

Friday, September 28, 2001



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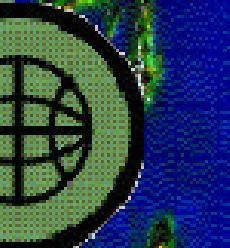
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Friday, September 28, 2001

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 Krautsch**

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

1:00 pm      *The Weight of Nations:  
French Intellectual Politics and the*

*Critique of Mondialisation'*

**Dipesh Chakrabarty**

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

Professor of History,  
Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, France

2:00 pm      *Discipline, Democracy and the*

*Politics of the Multitude*

**Eric Fassin**

Professor of History,  
Lobby outside Special Collections Room

3:00–3:30 pm

**Coffee Break**

3:30–4:30 pm

**Roundtable Discussion**

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 Canels,  
Director of the George A. Smathers Libraries and Carl Van Ness, Department  
Chair of Special and Area Studies; Collections for the use of the Special  
Collections Research Room.

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