

SOCIOLOGY ONLINE READINGS FOR GLOBAL SHIFT 7TH EDITION

COMPILED BY DAVID INGLIS, UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

PART TWO: PROCESSES OF GLOBAL SHIFT

3. Tangled Webs: Unravelling Complexity in the Global Economy

Castells, M. (2000) [Materials for an Exploratory Theory of the Network Society](#). *The British Journal of Sociology*, 51(1): 5–24. [An early but still highly useful contribution towards understanding how electronic networks can transform social relations, institutions, practices and identities.]

Sassen, S. (2006) *A Sociology of Globalization*. New York: W. W. Norton. [This book considers the role of digital networks in the global economy and how national governments relate to these.]

Urry, J. (2000) *Global Complexity*. Cambridge: Polity. [This book presents an analysis of how to conceptualise complex networks that stretch across the globe and

4. Technological Change: ‘Gales of Creative Destruction’

McLuhan, M., Fiore, Q. and Agel, J. (2001 [1968]) *War and Peace in the Global Village*. Berkeley and Hamburg: Gingko Press. [A very early but still intriguing and productive analysis of how different forms of media have transformed time and space.]

Ernst, D. (2002) Global production networks and the changing geography of innovation systems: Implications for developing countries. *Journal of the Economics of Innovation and New Technologies*, 11(6): 497–523. [This paper analyses how globalization processes are changing the patterns of economic innovation and creativity, both reproducing and altering hierarchies in the process.]

Knorr-Cetina K. and Preda, A. (2007) The temporalization of financial markets: From network markets to flow markets. *Theory, Culture and Society*, 24(7-8):123–145. [A paper written by leading sociologists of economy and technology, which considers the technological and social mutations being undergone by financial markets at the present time.]

Crang, M. (1999) Globalization as conceived, perceived and lived space. *Theory, Culture and Society*, 16(1): 167–177. [This paper shows that the understanding of globalization requires us to think about various different levels of space and spatial relationships so as to grasp the complexities of how globalization is transforming social relations in general, and economic ones in particular.]

5. Transnational Corporations: The Primary ‘Movers and Shapers’ of the Global Economy

Dicken, P. (2007) Economic Globalization: Corporations. In G. Ritzer (ed.) *The Blackwell Companion to Globalization*. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 291–306. [An excellent overview of the roles played by corporations within economic globalization processes.]

Sklair, L. (2002) *Globalization: Capitalism and Its Alternatives*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [A critical account of the history and current organisational practices of transnational corporations, which emphasises their socially detrimental effects.]

Carroll, W. K. and Sapinski, J.-P. (2010) The global corporate elite and the transnational policy-planning network, 1996–2006: A structural analysis. *International Sociology*, 25(4): 501–538. [This papers considers the different forms of connection that exist between high level executives and managers in transnational corporations, highlighting how closely connected different companies are in terms of sharing elite personnel.]

Buhlmann, F., David, T. and Mach, A. (2013) Cosmopolitan capital and the internationalization of the field of business elites: Evidence from the Swiss case. *Cultural Sociology*, 7(2): 211–229. [This paper illustrates a shift in the nature of the personnel of corporations, showing how globally recognised skills and qualifications are now more important for successful careers than are more nationally based capacities.]

6. The State *Really* Does Matter

Hirst, P. and Thompson, G. (1996) *Globalization in Question*. Cambridge: Polity. [A classic and highly critical dissection of claims that globalization has produced a borderless world, focussing on the continuing power of national governments to shape economic practices.]

Ohmae K. (2008) *The End of the Nation State: The Rise of Regional Economies*. New York: HarperCollins. [A provocative analysis of how nation states have lost power to control national economies, by an author who has been much criticised by others.]

Walby, S. (2003) The myth of the nation-state: Theorising society and politics in a global era. *Sociology*, 37(3): 529–546. [A summary of arguments as to whether the nation-state has been rendered into a mere shell by globalization forces, or whether it retains capacities to act in various influential ways.]

Brenner, N. (1999) Beyond state-centrism? Space, territoriality and geographical scale in globalization studies. *Theory and Society*, 28(1): 39–78. [A consideration of the different levels of space that exist across the world today, and how the governments of nation-states both operate within them and can be constrained by them.]