Capitalizing a future unsustainable: global energy and the fate of market civilization

Timothy DiMuzio

University of Wollongong, tdimuzio@uow.edu.au

Publication Details
Capitalizing a future unsustainable: global energy and the fate of market civilization

Abstract
Liberal capitalist polities are being held up as the ultimate civilizational achievement precisely at a point in time when the energy intensive built environments & rampant & senseless consumerism of these societies are threatened by ecological devastation & the coming end of cheap & abundant fuel. Throughout the twentieth century this pattern of high energy consumption social reproduction was largely shaped by the global energy industry & the industries it spawned and/or allowed to flourish. Yet due to a number of foreseeable, if not entirely predictable, future obstacles & challenges, this blueprint of development seems doomed to failure. However, despite some recognition of these challenges & the recent worldwide collapse in capitalization, it appears as though investors are continuing to capitalize this unsustainable future. In this paper I use a power theory of value approach to critically assess how far & in what ways the global energy industry is continuing to shape & reshape the terrain of social reproduction & governance towards an unsustainable future. In the first section of this paper I historicize the emergence of a more fully globalized market civilization by putting it in the context of the discovery of fossil fuel energy & how this resource has been integral to the “modernization” project of the twentieth century. In the ensuing sections, I outline the power theory of value of Nitzan & Bichler and argue that this perspective can help us account for the rise of a petro-market civilization. This sets the stage for a final section which offers an analysis of the oil & gas industry vis à vis the alternative energy sector of the global economy.

Keywords
unsustainable, global, capitalizing, energy, future, fate, market, civilization

Disciplines
Arts and Humanities | Law

Publication Details

This conference paper is available at Research Online: http://ro.uow.edu.au/lhpapers/859
XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology
Sociology on the Move
Gothenburg, Sweden
11 - 17 July, 2010

Conference Abstracts
Prepared in Cooperation with CSA Sociological Abstracts
This publication is presented to all registrants of the XVII International Sociological Association Forum of Sociology with the compliments of Sociological Abstracts (sa), and the ISA.

As you will notice, the abstracts are not numbered solely for this publication. Accession numbers have been assigned on the basis of a continuing system used by sa for abstracts of conference papers. For example, the first abstract, that of a paper by Abdullah, Noorman is numbered 2010S00001. The first four digits, representing the year of publication in sa, are followed by the letter S, identifying it as a Supplement abstract. The five-digit number (00001) identifies its sequential position among all Supplement abstracts published by sa in 2010.

Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter of Presentation</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Information</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstracts: A – C</td>
<td>2010S00001-2010S00573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D – G</td>
<td>2010S00574-2010S01016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H - K</td>
<td>2010S01017-2010S01433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L - O</td>
<td>2010S01434-2010S01954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P - S</td>
<td>2010S01955-2010S02601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T - Z</td>
<td>2010S02602-2010S03032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author Index</td>
<td>553 - 567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brief Subject Index</td>
<td>568 - 618</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
15 June, 2010

Dear ISA Conference Participants,

ProQuest is proud to partner with the International Sociological Association in preparing abstracts of papers being presented at the XVIIth World Congress of Sociology.

The response to the call for abstracts of papers to be presented met all expectations. CSA Sociological Abstracts received 3,032 abstracts from registered presenters by the 4 May 2010 deadline, included herein. These abstracts have also been included in the electronic version of the database and are available to the wider sociological community via CSA Illumina.

An additional 110 abstracts have been received to date and will be made available to CSA Sociological Abstracts users in December 2010. Abstracts will continue to be accepted from registered presenters at the CSA Sociological Abstracts Conference Abstracts Submission Web site (http://md1.csa.com/socioabs/submit.php) until 1 October 2010 for the year-end update.

CSA Sociological Abstracts is proud to have partnered with the International Sociological Association since 1970 in incorporating abstracts of World Congress presentations in the database. To date 19,000 abstracts from previous World Congress presenters have been included in CSA Sociological Abstracts, helping to provide a permanent record of the proceedings.

We hope that this publication and the broader dissemination of the presentations via CSA Sociological Abstracts will help to facilitate sociological research and discovery. Best wishes for fruitful intellectual encounters throughout the Congress and beyond.

Cordially,

Tyrone Nagai
ProQuest Supervising Editor
CSA Sociological Abstracts
This paper aims at presenting a scientific controversy in the world of sport sciences. It focuses upon electrical stimulation, a technique used to increase muscle with an electrical device sending electric impulses into the muscle. This technique was the subject of many scientific research studies, but the results stemming from them are contradictory, & thus create a typical controversy. This controversy involves several categories of actors, which this paper identifies while studying the type of arguments developed to impose one’s point of view. Through the analysis of 50 scientific papers and 15 interviews of the main researchers involved in the controversy, this paper studies the social processes at work in the construction & resolution of the controversy. The latter engages various conceptions of scientific research, & particularly enhances the conflicts between fundamental & applied science. The controversy is also grounded upon axiological positions & values, notably various conceptions of competitive sport, or the relationship between research & the sport industry. In addition, this paper shows how the conflicts can be better understood if one considers the researchers’ social stances in the sport science field & the interests associated with these stances.

This paper presents the results of an investigation that had as its objective an evaluation of the proposal & the effectiveness of the Colombian Model of Accreditation of Academic Programs, through the analysis of its foundations & the results of submission to the process in technological programs. For collection of information, a qualitative methodology was used & four techniques were applied: structured & open interviews, a focus group, & review of documents. A qualitative focus was selected given the absence of studies & of data that would give an account beyond the quantitative, of results of the accreditation in institutional dynamics, in the perceptions of members of the academic community, & in its task. Based on the findings, a proposal is presented for improving the model of accreditation in the following aspects: increasing the participation of the members of the institutions in the evaluation, the design of a model of outside evaluation that would facilitate communication between evaluators & the evaluated program; additions to the process of institutional improvement; diversification of the organisms & models of accreditation; & external evaluation, as a mechanism of surrender of accounts of the National Council of Accreditation.
To be “dissident”, a “protestor” or at least “alternate”, proves to be the necessary element for a biography which gives right to an intellectual life in those “socialists” countries after 1989. If positioning during an communist period does not offer a referent objectifying a “clean” biography, the autobiographical write-up can, on the other hand, create a trajectory of implicit dissidence. Is it necessary to choose the criticism of such an approach which aims to adjust in a universalizing ethnical frame and to rid from the guilt of the past; or, rather, to opt for the understanding of the rewritings accounting for the tensions between the individual constraints & choices transcending the context? We will propose an analysis of the autobiographies of Lubomir Levgev, representative of the artistic-creative intelligentsia, having occupied posts of senior officials in the intellectual and the political field in Bulgaria, before 1989. His autobiographical write-up, “You are the next one” with a subtitle “Novel of memories”, creates a character who lives inside the system and apart from it, a narrative posture of obliteration of the stigma.

**2010S00660**

**Dimmock, Alexandra K. & Burchell, Brendan J.** (Department of Sociology, University of Bristol, 12 Woodland Road Bristol, Bristol BS8 1UQ [tel: +44 151 336 2143; e-mail: soaad@bristol.ac.uk]). *From Breadwinning to Babysitting: An Exploratory Study of Stay-At-Home Fathers’ Experiences*, International Sociological Association, Gothenburg, Sweden.

The study, explains, decisions, making processes and experiences of twenty-six full-time stay-at-home fathers. The men were contacted online, for instance through social networking sites, & the data collection was mainly via emails & online “chats”. They discussed masculinity & gender roles in terms that they defined themselves, whilst aware of gender norms and common stereotypes. They reported that reactions from others were mixed, often with emotional & practical support coming primarily from immediate & extended family members. Fathers acknowledge stigma toward their roles, but reported being generally unaffected by the attitudes & reactions of others. The internet as a source of advice & information from other stay-at-home fathers is central to understanding the social support available to this emerging family type that challenges norms in both public and private spheres. The men discuss a range of influences that guided them to the role of becoming full-time primary carers; their own previous careers, their partner’s earnings capacity and satisfaction with their jobs, & their beliefs about the importance of parents in child-rearing were all preeminent in their discourses. This study is rooted in a burgeoning body of scholarship including maternal gatekeeping, “doing gender” and identities, ideologies & discourses on fatherhood.

**2010S00661**

**DiMuzio, Tim** (Center for Excellence In Global Governance Research, University of Helsinki, 3 Yliopistonkatu PL 4 Helsinki, 00014 Finland [tel: 358 0465726386; e-mail: timothy.dimuzio@helsinki.fi]). *Capitalizing a Future Unsustainable: Global Energy and the Fate of Market Civilization*, International Sociological Association, Gothenburg, Sweden.

The study, explains, challenges the prevailing notion that market civilization is achieving precisely at a point in time when the energy intensive built environments & rampant & senseless consumerism of these societies are threatened by ecological devastation & the coming end of cheap & abundant fuel. Throughout the twentieth century this pattern of high energy consumption social reproduction was largely shaped by the global energy industry & the industries it spawned and/or allowed to flourish. Yet due to a number of foreseeable, if not entirely predictable, future obstacles & challenges, this blueprint of development seems doomed to failure. However, despite some recognition of these challenges & the recent worldwide collapse in capitalization, it appears as though investors are continuing to capitalize this unsustainable future. In this paper I use a power theory of value approach to critically assess how far & in what ways the global energy industry is continuing to shape & reshape the terrain of social reproduction & governance towards an unsustainable future. In the first section of this paper I historicize the emergence of a more fully globalization market civilization by putting it in the context of the discovery of fossil fuel energy & how this resource has been integral to the “modernization” of the twentieth century. In the ensuing sections, I outline a power theory of value of Nitzan & Bichler and argue that this perspective can help us account for the rise of a petro-market civilization. This sets the stage for a final section which offers an analysis of the oil & gas industry vis à vis the alternative energy sector of the global economy.

**2010S00662**

**Diniz, Adriana V. S.** (Departamento de Sociologia y Antropología Social/Universidad de Valencia, Facultat de Ciències Socials, Universitat de València, 46022 - València (España) [tel: +34 63 96.382.54; e-mail: adriana[dinizar@hotmail.com]]. *Transiciones Biográficas Formativas y Profesionales de Sujetos Adultos en España y en Brasil*. (Educational and Professional Biographical Transitions in Adults in Spain and Brazil), International Sociological Association, Gothenburg, Sweden, (SPA).

The transformations in the marso del trabajo, de la educación y formación, en el marco del concepto de lifelong learning, parece atrachear al sujeto adulto, y le exigen plantearse un conjunto de dilemas respecto a cómo relacionarse con lo educativo-formativo en esta etapa de la vida. Desde la perspectiva biográfica, nos ha interesado comprender de qué forma los adultos, en España y en Brasil, se relacionan con los dispositivos institucionales educativo-formativos disponibles y cómo éstos impactan y/o han impactado en las biografías de aprendizaje para y en el trabajo. La investigación se ha anclado en los estudios sobre transiciones (Casal y Cardenal) y en la teoría de la biograficidad (Alheit y Dausiens). Han sido realizadas cincuenta y uno entrevistas narrativas. Los resultados apuntan que el proceso de construcción de las biografías de aprendizaje, en las diferentes fases de la vida adulta (joven adultez, adultez y adultez mayor), no son homogéneas, sino diversas y marcadas por desigualdades; influenciadas no solamente por la oferta educativa-formativa, sino que también dependen de las decisiones del propio adulto, como sujeto reflexivo, en el proceso de enfrentamiento de dilemas en la (re)vinculación a lo educativo-formativo, desde las condiciones espaciales y sociales en las que está inserto, y desde las expectativas, los valores y los horizontes del mundo de la vida. Sistematizamos zonas de dilemas enfrentados e identificamos modos de transiciones formativo-profesionales. Sugerimos pautas para las políticas públicas dirigidas a ampliar los modos de gestión biográfica de aprendizaje de personas adultas en las transiciones formativo-profesionales.

**2010S00663**

**Dinwiddie, Gnesha Y.** (University of Maryland College Park, 2169 LeFrak Hall College Park, MD 20742 [tel: 3014058938; e-mail: gdinwiddie@aasp.umd.edu]). *Does Stress ‘Get Under the Skin’ Differently? Gender Differences in Stress-Related Social Inequalities in Cardiovascular Risk in Adulthood*, International Sociological Association, Gothenburg, Sweden.

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) is the major cause of death in the United States & racial/ethnic minorities have higher incidence and prevalence rates compared to other groups in the population. Although studies have documented population differences in CVD, the underlying distal risk factors that influence critical levels of biological risk to account for these differences are not well understood. Using secondary data from the 2003-2006 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, the article examines the association between social status, socioeconomic status & seven biological markers of CVD risk. The seven biological markers are High Density Lipoprotein, Low Density Lipoprotein, C-Reactive Protein, Homocysteine, Blood Pressure, waist circumference and triglycerides. Results show a significant pattern of association between educational level & biomarkers that varied by race/ethnicity. When a cumulative risk score was applied against risk factors for CVD, lower educational attainment was associated with higher cumulative risk. Results of the paper shows that socio-economic status is a significant predictor of metabolic risks in adulthood & assessing education’s relationship to biomarkers appropriate for assessing cardiovascular risks that vary by race/ethnicity & age group is important for understanding disparities in health.

**2010S00664**

**Dix, Steffen** (Steffen Dix; Institute of Social Science; University of Lisbon [e-mail: sxds@ics.ul.pt]). *Beyond the Dual Perspective of Being Either Religious or Secular (Modern): Portuguese Catholicism as a Case Study*, International Sociological Association, Gothenburg, Sweden.

Modernization is often associated with secularization. However, it has become clear over the last few years that modernisation doesn’t cause a necessary decline of religion. Even in modern European societies, we have to acknowledge the simultaneous existence and the link between the religious & secular spheres. Based on the case study of Portuguese Catholicism, I endeavour to re-examine the dual perspective of being either religious or secular (modern). Bearing in mind that there has never been a linear transition from the religious to the secular in Portugal, it would be more accurate to say that traditional Catholicism has tried over the last decades to adapt to the conditions of increasing modernisation. In this sense, Portuguese Catholicism in the second half of the twentieth century