

NTNU Global



APRIL—JUNE 2010

NTNU Strategic Area Globalization

In this issue

Main happenings	1
Workshop arranged	1
Master's theses on Globalization	2 – 3
Recent publications	4
About NTNU's Globalization Programme	5

Main Happenings

During the period of April—June, the researchers of the NTNU's Globalization Programme were primarily occupied with preparing project proposals to the Norwegian Research Council.

On 20th April, the programme Director, coordinator and the dean of the host faculty participated in the 'stringdialog' with rector.

Focus Areas have finalized the evaluation of PhD and postdoctoral applications.



Workshop: Global Regulation of Corporate Social Responsibility

Workshop on Global regulations on corporate social responsibility (CSR) was held on 12-13 April. Over twenty-four participants engaged in active exchange and discussion over this two-day CSR workshop addressing the opportunities and challenges of CSR implementation from both macro and micro perspectives.

The keynote speaker was Professor Prakash Sethi from Sethi International Center for Corporate Accountability, Inc, New York who addressed the topic of strategic management of social issues. Other guest speakers included Associate Professor Darryl Reed from York University, Toronto who shared his perspective of possibilities, prospects and tensions of fair trade as a form of non-state regulation, and Einar Flydal, leader of the Norwegian ISO 26000 work and Senior Advisor at Telenor, who discussed the impacts and implications of the impending international standard. PhD Candidates, Caroline Y. Cheng, Natallia Vakar and Christofer Skaar at the Department of Industrial Economics and Technology Management, also presented their PhD work-in-progress papers.

This workshop was held as part of the ongoing Environmental Management-CSR research at the Department of Industrial Economics and Technology Management, in collaboration with the Programme of Applied Ethics and NTNU's Globalization Programme.



Top: Professor Annik M. Fet opening the workshop.
Bottom: Professor Prakash Sethi (left) and Einar Flydal (right)





Master's Theses on Issues Relating to Globalization

What explains the Intensity of Naxalite Violence in India? An Empirical Analysis Across Indian States from 1997-2007

Katinka Sætersdal Remøe

Master of Science in Globalization: Global Politics and Culture

The Naxalite, or Maoist, insurgency is one of many internal conflicts taking place within India. While its origins can be traced back to an uprising in the West Bengal village of Naxalbari in 1967, the insurgency has increased in intensity over the last decade, spreading from its epicentre in West Bengal into several other states, creating what has become known as the “red corridor” of rebel territorial control. It has become one of the biggest threats to Indian internal security and in 2009, the Indian government launched a military offensive of unprecedented scale in an attempt to come to terms with the rebellion.

The aim of the Naxalites is to overthrow the Indian government and restore a new, democratic system. They justify their actions on the grounds that the Indian government has so far failed to give equal rights to all citizens and that they represent the rural tribal and poor people, who have been repressed and neglected for decades by the Indian state, over land ownership and the equal distribution of socio-economic resources. This justification suggests that the main explanation behind the rebellion is the existence of deprivation and structural inequality that underpins social and collective grievance. However, if these are the main explanatory factors leading to the insurgency, why is the rebellion only taking place in certain states in India? Surely, these states are not the only ones characterized by poverty and inequality. Are there other factors that may shed more light over the phenomenon of the “red corridor?”

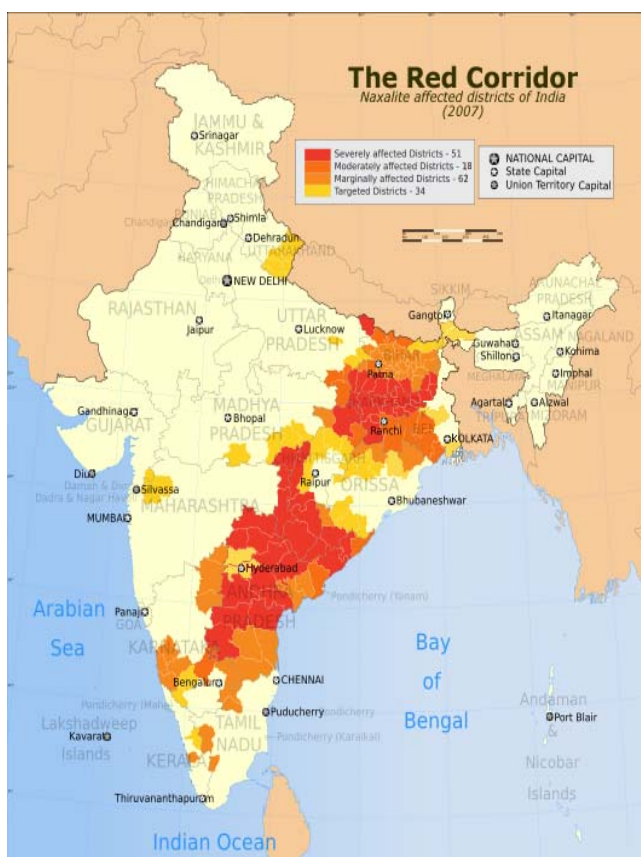
Based on this background, Ramøe investigated following research question:

To what extent can the Naxalite insurgency be explained by factors associated with poverty, socio-economic inequality, and access to land and environmental assets relative to factors associated with opportunity to rebel?

Using theories on collective political violence, Ramøe looks at the Naxalite insurgency in light of a prominent theoretical debate within the field of conflict analysis, notably the “greed and grievance” debate on whether conflict is best explained by grievance factors or factors based on opportunity of self-interest. More specifically, she looks at whether the intensity and spread of Naxalite violence could best be explained by grievance-based factors such as structural inequality, poverty and deprivation, or other factors based on opportunity and feasibility for rebellion. Her analysis used negative binomial regression and tested the explanatory power of a set of variables on the intensity of Naxalite violence.

Ramøe concludes that an explanation based on grievance is not sufficient in order to get a grasp and concise understanding of the Naxalite rebellion. Indeed, this study indicates that factors related to key resources and opportunities on the side of the insurgents have more explanatory power than grievance-causing, socio-economic issues. While previous work has to a large extent focused on notably grievance factors as the main explanation for the rebellion, this analysis suggests that factors related to the feasibility and opportunity of the conflict should be further investigated.

The Thesis was supervised by Professor Indra de Soysa.



The Potential Contributions of Local Culture and Traditional Institutions to Minimize Corruption in the Era of Glocalization: The Case of ICBOs in Southern Ethiopia

Tassew Asfaw Woldemedihin

Master of Science in Globalization: Global Politics and Culture

How do local culture, knowledge and traditional institutions (ICBOs) matter to integrate global anticorruption policies with local community in the era of globalization?

The study is conducted with objectives of assessing the nature, causes and effects of corruption on the development of southern Ethiopia, and to come up with better solutions. The study presents theoretical and empirical evidences that corruption affects the well beings of poor countries through misuse of existing limited financial resources, particularly in southern Ethiopia. Like many developing countries, southern Ethiopia focuses on formal institutions such as anti-corruption institutions and laws to combat corruption. The current government of Ethiopia has established ethics and anticorruption commissions at federal and regional levels to implement anticorruption laws and programs. Even though these institutions have been working for long time, corruption has been still one of the main challenges of development in Southern Ethiopia.

After analyzing existing literatures and first hand information from SNNPRS, this thesis develops new approaches towards combating corruption in the public sectors. In addition to secondary sources, primary sources were collected by using

unstructured and in depth interviews, group discussions and personal observations during field work in southern Ethiopia.

The findings show that truly independent anti-corruption institutions that focus on informal institutions such as indigenous community based organizations can make tremendous impacts towards increasing effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts in order to minimize or if possible to eradicate corrupt practices in the community. The findings also indicate that local knowledge and cultures play robust roles to integrate global anticorruption policies and strategies with local communities. This glocalization process is important to implement best experiences of global communities in combating corruption with values and cultural practices of local communities in southern Ethiopia. To facilitate this glocalization process and to increase effectiveness of anticorruption efforts in SNNPRS, ICBOs can make tremendous contributions by establishing social capital ties between global best experiences, and local values and cultural practices.

The Thesis was supervised by Professor Indra de Soysa.

Global Production System, Labour and the Right to Work: A Case Study of Meadows Flower PLC in Western Ethiopia, Hollata Town

Metiku Kenehi Gemed

Master of Science in Globalization: Global Politics and Culture

Ethiopia has acceded to too many global conventions and proclamations or treaties confirming the right to work. However after years of ratifying international conventions regarding human rights, the state is still facing difficulty on the practical implementation of its commitment to protect, respect and fulfil workers' rights. Based on this background Gemed studies the impact of globalization on workers in the floriculture industry of Ethiopia from a human rights perspective and the role played by the state as a primary duty bearer to protect and safeguard worker's rights in the sector. The study concludes that regardless of the fact that Ethiopia is a signatory state of the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and labour declarations of the International Labour Organization, integration into the global production system resulting in various forms of workers' rights violations within floriculture industry, including precarious work conditions and overexploitation.

The Thesis was supervised by Professor Ragnhild Lund, Department of Geography



Recent Publications by Globalization Researchers at NTNU

Alterhaug, Bjørn (2010): *Improvisation as Phenomenon and Tool for Communication, Interactive Action and Learning*, in M. Santi (Ed.), *Improvisation. Between Technique and Spontaneity*, Cambridge: Cambridge Scholar Publisher.

Even though the main focus of Alterhaug's article is on improvisation, according to the author, it is more about globalization. Concluding the chapter Alterhaug writes:

"In humanistic theory of today we can see an increasing weight and importance of the performing aspects: Man's different expressions is no longer simply understood as reflections or descriptions of the world, but also as something that actively intervenes this world and thereby contributes to a constitution or creating of the world or reality.

The growing interest and focus the performing aspects related to communication and learning, which the Padova conference and initiatives at my own university are examples of, give hope for increased interdisciplinary research on improvisation to shed light on improvisation as an urgent phenomenon and practice in different contexts in a globalised world."

Thorseth, May and Charles Ess (2010): "Global information and computer ethics" in Luciano Floridi (ed.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Information and Computer Ethics*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.

Larsen, Tord (2010): Entification. The Emergence of Thinghood in Social Life. In: Rapport, Nigel (ed.), *Human Nature as Capacity. An Ethnographic Approach*. Berghahn Books, In series "Methodology & History in Anthropology".

Conference presentations

Brun, C. & R. Lund (2010). "Gendering post-crisis responses – partnerships and co-production of knowledge. Contextual Approaches to Studying Gender in Asia". IGU/Commission on Gender, New Delhi, 03–05 March 2010.

Brun, C. & R. Lund (2010). "Constructing knowledge on forced migration: Researching conflicting spaces and borderline issues Globalisation - Nation States, Forced Migration and Human Rights". 11 March 2010.

Cheng, Caroline Y. (2010). "Using a Hexagonal Balanced Scorecard approach to integrate Corporate Sustainability into Strategy". 16th International Sustainable Development Research Conference in Hong Kong; 30 May–1 June 2010.

Haskins, Cecilia (2010). Emerging industrial development along a sustainable trajectory – the special case of Bhutan the name of the track is Sustainable Communities with – not despite – industry. 16th International Sustainable Development Research Conference in Hong Kong; 30 May–1 June 2010.

Lund, R. (2010). "Mobile Livelihoods and Gendered Citizenship". 50 Year Anniversary Geography Conference, Burdwan University, India; 08 March 2010.



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NTNU Globalization Programme is based on NTNU's long-standing tradition of globalization research and combines academic excellence, interdisciplinary cooperation and social relevance.

NTNUs Globalization Programme includes researchers from the humanities, social sciences, architecture and technology, representing 25 departments at 7 faculties throughout the university. Researchers work within the three focus areas.

A major challenge is to facilitate synergies between these areas by formulating cross-cutting research themes and linking them closer together through increased collaboration.



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