

Globalization: Theoretical Perspectives
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Conclusion

Welcome back to the class and today is our final session, the fifth session in the twelfth week that is the last session and time quite happy as well as relieved, we have been able to complete the course, I hope you must have found it helpful, we know that we have I have framed it as a slightly advanced course looking at globalisation from a sociological point of view and framed the system as a theory-heavy approach.

So, I do not know how many of you found it rather very difficult, very dry, I do not know how many of you found it moderately easy, how many of you found it easy to cope up, I have not much of an idea about how you have received it. But this is a course that I offer at IIT Madras; in fact, I have added more material to this course than what I otherwise would have discussed in the class because of the limited period that I get in the traditional style.

So, I hope that this course was helpful because globalisation is a process that is happening around us; as I mentioned in the very introductory class, it is happening through us we are party to that, it hardly leaves any field of society untouched, it is making significant changes in our understanding about who we are, and it is making substantial transformations in the world around us whether it is in the field of economy or polity or technology.

So, maybe one of the most remarkable shifts in recent history and as discipline sociology has been heavily invested in this particular phenomenon, sociologists and try to understand this specific phenomenon from various vantage points and if I bring back your take your attention to some of the early lectures in the very first week, I repeatedly mentioned that there is hardly any consensus among sociologists regarding some of the fundamental questions about its epistemological and gerontological basis about the kind of political position that it is that one is required to adopt towards globalisation.

These are some of the vexed questions, very complicated questions; I hope that you would have got some idea about these debates within globalisation literature and what are how sociological

theories or scholars within sociology have improved our understanding of this particular phenomenon are starting with discussions on culture on spatiality, on cosmopolitanism, on the nation-state, on anti-globalisation movements, we touched upon a wide variety of issues, topics, scholars, themes and arguments and then counter-arguments.

For me, this course personally has been quite illuminating quite insightful of the kind of literature that globalisation brings up, so I believe that a researcher and academic who is working on any of the contemporary forms of society in any of the conditions of modern society can be oblivious to the discussions and debates and theories about globalisation.

And this applies whether you are a sociologist, you are an economist, you are a political scientist, you are a culture studies specialist whatever be the field of your enquiry, whether you are a student or you are a student or a master student or a PhD student these discussions and debates are extremely important because most of them are so fundamentally brings into question some of the taken for assumptions of our methodological and theoretical premises.

I hope you remember our discussions about methodological nationalism and methodological cosmopolitanism. I hope you appreciate that these theoretical and methodological concerns are significant when making sense of a phenomenon around you.

So, globalisation literature, as I mentioned in the initial classes, has a fascinating set of theories to offer to make sense of that the kind of cultural transformations happening around us; the questions of subjectivity are the kind of questions about cultural revivalism in many places, about identities, about cosmopolitan identity onto one side and also they can feel more communitarian parochial identities on the other side.

So, scholars like Arjun Appadurai and others make a lot of sense; I hope you remember his argument about fear of small numbers and how these minorities create so much terror and fear among the minds of the majority. So, we had a series of essential and exciting discussions about spirituality on Giddens and Ulrich Beck; I hope you would have enjoyed his talk on the risk society, his argument about the second modernity, his statement about reflexive modernity, and I hope that through some of those readings must have been might have been slightly dry for you, I hope you would have appreciated the kind of theoretical rigour with which they were arguing this set of scholars including Castells and others.

So, we have framed or come across a series of articles and literature that cut across disciplinary boundaries. Many of the literature that we discussed are not confined to that of sociology alone; we moved into the realm of political theory, we moved into the realm of economics, we moved into the realm of geography, we moved in the realm of cultural studies, so naturally this literature in a globalised late modern era cannot be classed as the way it was envisioned maybe during the nineteenth or twentieth century.

So, the literature will also reflect the kind of complicated life that we face in contemporary times, and I hope you would have appreciated that. And in the last couple of weeks, I have tried to concentrate on some of the select themes on globalisation, including the guest lecture by Doctor Shakti and I think that also you must have found it helpful because till the week tenth we did not look into case studies or other things are examples instead we were focusing more on the theoretical side. Hence, the last 2 or 3 weeks, we devoted to studying very substantive themes like sociology of religion, then sociology of media and a host of other articles.

And I hope that by this time you have kind of a general theoretical background to make sense of globalisation literature on any specific themes of your interest, and that was again one of the primary objectives of this course to enable the students to theoretically appreciate the kind of transformations that are happening in the area of their particular interest. So, that is the reason why I spend so much of my time on the theoretical aspects so that once you are familiar with the theory, then it becomes much easier for you to use the theoretical framework to make sense of the advancements as well as theoretical arguments that are taking place in your substantive domain of interest.

And I hope that all of you, whether you are students or faculty or researchers who have taken up this course, will find it helpful, you will appreciate the kind of complexity that we are encountering in our personal life in our professional life, how the world is a kind of evolving in front of us whether we will be able to direct in a better way or as Giddens prophecy that we are witnessing a kind of a run-away world where we stand helplessly we have no idea what is they store in us in the future.

So, I am concluding this session I am I hope that you would have had a fruitful time attending this course listening to the lectures, and I wish you all the best in all your future end overs in

your academic end overs in your personal life; I wish you all the best and thank you for taking up the course. Thank you.