Shifting Global Hegemonies

The past four decades or so have seen what arguably amounts to one of the greatest and most dramatic transformations in human history. During this period of time, various critical thresholds have been surpassed as a result of which many of the hallmarks of modern development for the first time reached truly global proportions, shaping the lives of people around the world and turning what until then had been a minority phenomenon into a lived reality for the majority of the population. In its totality, this change amounts to nothing short of a social revolution – the ultimate breakthrough of modernity on a global scale. Spatially, most of this revolutionary development is concentrated in the non-Western world, especially in East Asia, with South Asia “joining in” a little later, but by and large moving in the same direction. Substantial change is also underway in the Middle East and in Africa, even if the overall picture in these regions is as yet more mixed. And Latin America finds itself somewhere in between.

The breakthrough of global modernity is an event of seismic proportions whose significance the world has barely begun to understand. The concept of global modernity aims to shed light on this novel constellation, as well as on some of the consequences and challenges it presents – practically as well as theoretically. One of these consequences is the end of Western global hegemony. After several centuries of first, European, then Western world domination, we are now in the midst of a transition from a westcentric to a polycentric modernity wherein the West ceases to be the single most driver of global change and is reduced to one of several players, no longer able to determine the rules of the game and the parameters of change for all. This transition is a multidimensional process, affecting both symbolic (“soft”) and material (“hard”) bases of power across many different fields, including the global economy, world politics and the world order, science and possibly many more (such as global law, the global mass media and public sphere, global sports, etc.).

The purpose of the workshop is to explore the shifting global hegemonies in a variety of fields and to reflect upon its implications.

Workshop Programme: https://nus.edu/2FNiP67

Organisers:
Dietrich Jung, University of Southern Denmark and
Volker H. Schmidt, Department of Sociology, NUS

Queries? Email: socvhs@nus.edu.sg

29 & 30 JAN
--------------
AS7
#01-17
SEM RM B
REGISTER ONLINE

29 JAN:
https://nus.edu/2T6QrzT
30 JAN:
https://nus.edu/2MmwyIa