

FOREWORD

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Dear Readers: It is difficult to focus on all that many things at once these days, as the state of race relations in the United States continues to degrade and as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to upend our lives and claim those of far too many others (more on that in the editor's message to follow). Yet the multiple challenges facing the global south are as present as ever, so we will keep publishing work that examines the broad range of experiences across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Eurasia, and Latin America. In this issue, Hae Won Jeong demonstrates how the United Arab Emirates has ramped up its efforts to create a forward-looking and diversified economic development model through its relations with major Asian economies. Linda Alkhawaja, Hanan Ibrahim, and Abdulazeez Jaradat examine patterns of attitudes expressed by Jordanian Twitter users in response to a recent spate of bank robberies, revealing how public reactions to these crimes have drawn out longstanding frustrations with Jordan's government and society. Ronald Mendoza and Miann Banaag utilize a novel political inequality index that, when applied to a provincial Philippine case study, suggests that political inequality strongly correlates with negative socio-economic development indicators, while more established measures of economic inequality do not. Anjali Kumar compares two populations of food vendors in Bangkok, Thailand to show how a series of geography-related variables can determine the financial success of those vendors. Parwez Besmel examines various societal factors that might bear on a post-conflict transition in Afghanistan, arguing that while a protracted judicial process is improbable, the possibility of a truth and reconciliation commission is strong. Albert Omulo takes a fresh look at the flawed Kenyan general election of 2017, arguing that capitalism-driven globalization and power rivalries between the United States and China help to explain the tolerance for irregularities among western observers charged with overseeing free and fair elections. Finally, we have included a

translation of the keynote address from our most recent conference, held in December in Argentina, by Eduardo Lazzari, widely known as the “Historian of Buenos Aires.”

As always, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the anonymous peer reviewers who have worked to improve each article, as well as the volunteer associate editors (Fodei Batty for Africa, Srobana Battacharya for Asia, Vaughn Shannon for the Middle East, Luis Sierra for the Americas, Jason Strakes for Eurasia, and Michael Hall for book reviews), and offer an equally big thank-you to the JGSS copy editor, Sara Abernathy, as well as to Lauren Phillips, journals manager at the University of Florida Press. Anyone wishing to contribute a book review can do so by visiting the guidelines page at the Association of Global South Studies website here: <https://apps.gsw.edu/agss/index.php/guidelines-for-book-reviews/>.

Our parent organization, the Association of Global South Studies, was established in order to provide an international structure for the humane and scientific study of peoples, problems, and issues in the world’s developing countries, with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of life in those places. The late Dr. Harold Isaacs, professor emeritus of history at Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, Georgia, founded the Association of Third World Studies (ATWS), Inc., in 1983. The association now has a global membership and chapters in South Asia and Africa. In the summer of 2016, following a vote of the members of the association, ATWS was renamed the Association of Global South Studies (AGSS).

As ATWS, the association began its history as an institution in 1991 when, under the newly ratified ATWS constitution, elected officials assumed responsibility for the management of the organization. Since 1992 the executive headquarters have been located at Georgia Southern University (1992-2003), Mississippi State University (2003-2006), and Louisiana State University-Shreveport (2006-). Due to the dedicated and energetic leadership of Zia H. Hashmi and Paul Rodell at Georgia Southern, Shu-hui Wu at Mississippi State, and William Pederson at LSU-Shreveport, AGSS has made great progress as a global, professional organization. In 1995 the United Nations recognized the success of AGSS by granting it UN “consultative status,” thus enabling the association to increase its direct impact on world development. AGSS has an established and newly revamped website, to be found at <http://apps.gsw.edu/atws/>.

Membership in AGSS is open to any person interested in studying the developing countries. Yearly membership dues are \$60.00, which includes an annual subscription to JGSS. The yearly subscription rate is \$60.00; single copies are \$30.00. Discounts are available for students and those living in the developing countries. Membership and subscription forms, as well as copies of JTWS/JGSS, may be obtained by writing to the Association of Global South Studies, Inc., care of Ryan Alexander, History Department, SUNY-Plattsburgh, Champlain Valley Hall 224, Plattsburgh, NY 12901. Individuals interested in submitting articles to be considered, or refereed, for publication by the JGSS Board of Editors, should write to the editor, also Ryan Alexander, at the above address. Alternatively, manuscripts may be sent to the editor via email: ralex006@plattsburgh.edu.

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