

Abstract for: Special Session 1: Social Justice and Diversity

Human Rights for All in the Globalization Project @ New Media Spaces?
Interfacing Social Justice and Larger Freedom in the Information Age

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Abstract

Humanities epitomize human conditions and articulate critical socio-cultural values.... Since 1948 the *United Nations (UN) Declaration of Human Rights*, becomes the contesting agenda for human(itie)s development; whilst more recently, the globalization project, championed by international governmental organizations (IGOs) like IMF and WTO, has inherent contradictions. Far from benign that fosters better economic benefits for all, the unbridled capitalism leads to the exploitation of the weak and to socio-ecological degradation, and engendering xenophobia and the demise of local people's jobs and culture. The globalization processes have been indeed polarizing people's socio-economic lives and consequently affect their economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights.... Against these problems, civic forces promote everyone's (universal) ESC rights, achieving the essence of humanity and universal freedom! Globalization is not just a challenge to the governance capacity of IGOs, but also energizes non-governmental organizations' (NGOs) quest for human development. This paper problematizes socio-economic process of social justice in high-tech advanced capitalism, with reference to utopian ideas and humanity ideals in the information age. More specific, it highlights the new media (mobile communications, Internet, etc.) shaping for critical e-activism: new social mobilization at different arenas in redefining international norms for global governance, as well as enhancing the quality and diversity of human conditions.... Thanks to (new media) critical advocacies, development agencies have been forced to make policy adjustments or concessions, resulting in new policy regime for consultative-consensus building for promoting (or exploiting?) people's ESC rights, social justice and diversity.