



Global Research  
Institute of Paris



BRILL

Vincenzo Cicchelli & Isabelle Léglise<sup>1</sup> (eds, Brill 2025)

*The Craft of the Social Scientist in the global Arena (Vol. 1)*

*The Fields of the Global (Vol. 2)*

### Call for Contribution



The importance of global interconnectedness as an essential component of the social sciences in the twenty-first century has been widely recognized in the vast literature that emerged in the early 1990s from Global Studies (Featherstone, 1990; Castells, 1996; Beck, 1999; Albrow, 1997; Held et al., 1999). After forty years as part of the global academic vocabulary, the attempts to understand the increasingly interconnected realities in which human beings live have produced millions of pages of theoretical and empirical research, including a multiplicity of terms as transnational approaches, world history, interconnected history, civilizational approaches, cosmopolitanism, world culture, cultural globalization, and so on. The number of books, readers, handbooks, companions, special issues, and papers devoted to the many topics related to globalization is innumerable.

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Although very different and sometimes at odds with each other, both conceptually and methodologically, studies trying to understand how national societies - but also local communities at the level of a village, for example - are more than ever in the grip of phenomena that transcend their geographical borders. The multidimensional circulation of individuals, ideas, knowledge, modes, norms, values, and imaginations is still of direct interest to the social sciences because of its interwoven and multidisciplinary nature, forcing researchers to abandon simplistic and deterministic approaches (Cotesta, 2012).

Building on the above considerations, and with the intention to innovate in this endless literature, our ambition is to gather contributions that explore the impact of globalization processes on how social scientists approach these impacts and processes at local/global scales. As the fundamental questions underpinning the global turn were whether social issues can still be contained within the territorial borders of the nation-state, and how to capture the internal transformations of contemporary societies (according to the paradoxical dynamics of integration/fragmentation, inclusion/exclusion, dispersion/concentration of economic, institutional, political and social realities) (Cicchelli, 2018), the interest in global topics should prompt the development of new epistemological, theoretical and methodological tools or the refinement of older and classical ones. Emphasizing this aspect of rethinking and/or innovation would make it possible to understand what these approaches (either qualitative or quantitative) entail according to the different disciplines that deal with globalization and its consequences, and how new avenues of research can be imagined through cross-fertilization between disciplines. In particular, we aim:

- a) To discuss multi-scalar, multi-level, and multi-sited methods commonly used to study the global, transnational, translocal levels of observation or its impacts;
- b) To focus either on comparative objects with a significant economic and cultural impact, or on issues, knowledge, and commodities that remain on the margins of globalization. Like the larger field of global studies, these approaches are by definition, multidisciplinary, involving scholars from different disciplinary and theoretically backgrounds, positionnalities and geographical locations;
- c) To present various possible approaches among which transnational, translocal and cosmopolitan sociologies, connected histories, multi-sited ethnographies and many more , in light with the challenges posed, on one hand, by globalization and, on the other, the need for situated standpoints and knowledge claimed by feminist, postcolonial, decolonial, or post-western approaches for the last 30 years (Stoetzler and Yuval-Davis, 2002; Santos 2007; Mignolo 2000).

**Based on this ambition, two distinct but complementary books will be published by BRILL on hardback, paperback and in an open-access format.**

While in the first volume (entitled “*The Craft of the Social Scientist in the Global Arena*”), we explore how globalization is changing our tools of analysis on an epistemological, theoretical, and methodological level, in the second volume (entitled “*The Fields of the Global*”) we gather proposals addressing more specifically how various disciplines approach globalization through case studies locally grounded.

In the volume *The Craft of the Social Scientist in the Global Arena* we intend to address the very issue of 'how' globalization(s) work(s) and its impact on the craft of Social scientists in terms of theoretical and epistemological tools. Where and when are the global, transnational, translocal levels to be observed? What are the indicators of globalization, and how to approach these processes? How to measure global flows? What are the relevant scales of observation? How is it possible to integrate various levels of analysis as the Global North/South relations or Eastern/Western divides and a discussion of glocal phenomena? How to better situate social scientists' positionality in the global economy of knowledge? While an overwhelming number of studies have been conducted in the field of global studies, our goal here is to understand the multiple dimensions of the consequences, for social and political scientists – sociologists, anthropologists, human geographers, and linguists –, to address the Global and its consequences linked to epistemological considerations.

In the volume *The Fields of the Global*, our goal is conversely to understand the empirical issues, for social and political scientists to address the Global, its manifestations and its consequences linked to their investigation on the field. What might constitute global fieldwork(s), and what are the fields of the global? What kind of data and methodology should be mobilized to observe the transnational processes at a micro-level, or, on the reverse, how and when do we connect local observations and locally meaningful entities to global processes? How to seize the impact of global risks on local reality? How to conduct multi-situated, multi-scalar, multi-level fieldworks? Linking local observations and global processes, interested in the circulations between multiple centers and peripheries within the relationships between Global North and South, West and East (even if those terms are no more accurate for describing contemporary complexities), the studies presented should start from their research field as case studies by explaining the conceptual tools mobilized and the research practices that their use induces, on the one hand, the adaptation of the theoretical frame to the fieldwork and how the characteristics of the latter can transform the former on the other hand. We will be particularly interested in "globalization from below," in the production, circulation, reception, and redefinition of norms, values, imaginaries, ideals, religious beliefs, ethnonational identities, varieties of cultures, and local traditions by observing the phenomena diversely called glocalization, indigenization, hybridization, creolization, the invention of traditions, etc.

These are the issues that our two edited volumes seek to address by offering a multidisciplinary panorama of possible fields and scales to capture the multiple consequences of globalization.

**We already got a certain number of contributions but submission of abstracts** (500 words maximum no later than 15/06/23) and **first versions of the chapters** (8000 words maximum, no later than 30/09/23) are still possible, directly to: [thecraftofsocialscientists@gmail.com](mailto:thecraftofsocialscientists@gmail.com)