

## Abstracts

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### **Transformation of the Global Labour Market for Filipino Seafarers: A Case Study of Labour's Agency in a Globalising World**

Shaun Ruggunan, Industrial Organisation and Labour Studies, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Howard College Campus, Durban 4041, South Africa (Email: ruggunans@ukzn.ac.za) looks at the labour market for seafarers which has been restructured beyond recognition between 1975 and 1982. The scale and pace at which this change occurred remains unrivalled and is unparalleled in the history of the modern industrial world. This paper investigates the factors that contributed to the creation of these new labour markets from 1970. In particular, the focus falls on the strategies employed by the Associated Maritime Officers and Seafarers Union (AMOSUP) of the Philippines and the strategies of the International Transport Federation (ITF) to service their global seafaring membership. It is demonstrated that despite the power of shipping capital to relocate and source cheap labour from the developing world, trade unions can develop strategies to both promote and contain capital's expansion and reproduction. Both labour and capital are active agents in the process of globalisation and the creation of labour markets, even if these labour markets are uneven, the author argues.

### **The Federal Approach to Fiscal Decentralisation: Conceptual Contours for Policy Makers**

Chanchal Kumar Sharma, Department of Political Science, Maharaja Agrasen College, H.No-610, Sector-17HUDA, Jagadhri-13500, Haryana, India, (Email : siddhantchanchal@rediffmail.com), in his paper demonstrates that in order for fiscal decentralisation to be effective, it must be approached federally. A federal approach is not a decentralised approach but a dynamically balanced approach; one that constantly keeps on adjusting the contrasting forces of centralisation and decentralisation to create a system that can ensure good governance in accordance with the rapidly changing global and local scenario. According to the author, the good governance of the present time has to be federally flexible and dynamically decentralised and institutions of fiscal federalism are crucial for achieving such a dynamic equilibrium. Fiscal decentralisation cannot be detached from the broader principles of fiscal federalism if it is to be successful, irrespective of the fact of whether it is being carried out in a federal or non-federal country. He argues that too much decentralisation or an overly strong central federal government precludes the survival of a constitutional federal state.

## **Elderly White Residents of Post-Apartheid Central Durban in South Africa : The Trapped and Downward Mobiles in an Inner City's Transition?**

Geoff Waters, Faculty (retired), Sociology Programme, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban 4041, South Africa (Res: 46 Kentucky Drive, Durban North 4051, South Africa) presents his research on the white elderly in Durban. By the early-21st century, the elderly white residents of post-apartheid central Durban were essentially the equivalents of Gans' (1962) trapped and downward mobiles. This paper reports on a study undertaken in 2001-2 in which a quota sample of 85 elderly whites living in five different types of residential accommodation in central Durban were qualitatively interviewed. While all the respondents expressed satisfaction with their own accommodation regardless of type and most were positive about their immediate environments, on other issues they varied widely. These included their residential histories as well as personal opinions on their local neighbourhoods, the whole inner city, safety and security, attitudes of others towards them and the inner city's suitability as a habitat for the white elderly. The results of this study show that to indiscriminately label Durban's elderly white inner city residents as trapped and downward mobiles would seem to be to confound a demographic category with a social type.

## **Conserving Biodiversity in Africa: Wildlife Management in Cameroon**

Ndenecho Emmanuel Neba, Lecturer in Geography at the University of Yaounde, ENS Bamili, P.O. Bamenda, North West Province, Cameroon (Email: ndenechon@yahoo.com) examines the wildlife potentials of Cameroon and appraises the current management strategies being practised there. The author holds that ill-adapted management strategies are bound to fail in attaining sustainable landscapes and livelihoods. Identifying the complex causes of wildlife degradation and attempting to trace the reasons for the failure of conservation projects, the author argues for elaborate new models for wildlife management in rural communities of Africa. According to him, a holistic wildlife management model, which offers the opportunity to simultaneously address the pillars of sustainability – economic, productive, environmental, social and cultural – is what is needed for a positive change. The modern procedures of environmental economics that can be used to assess natural resources and their component parts, cost-benefit analysis and market research are all indispensable parts of the model. But in the long-term, the key task for pragmatic nature conservation must be to address population policy issues.

## **Desegregation, Deracialisation or Non-Racialism: Understanding Transformation in Post-Apartheid Schooling in South Africa**

Anand Singh, University of KwaZulu-Natal, School of Anthropology, Gender and Historical Studies, Durban, 4000, South Africa (Email: [singhan@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:singhan@ukzn.ac.za)), writes about mistaken transposition of the concepts of desegregation, deracialisation and non-racialism in post-apartheid South Africa. This paper is an off-shoot of research that was done on the integration of formerly all-Indian and all-White schools that were increasingly enrolling African and Indian learners but which had teaching staff that still remained predominantly Indian or White respectively. The focus of the original research made it impossible to integrate these concepts into its intended theme and therefore required a separate effort to discuss their significance in a rapidly transforming South Africa. Contemporary debates on the issue illustrate the often mistaken transpositions of these concepts as though they have the same meanings. It demonstrates the need to be more careful and particular in their uses and applications. The paper concludes with an evaluation of the debates surrounding transformation in schools and the need to be circumspect about the use and application of the concepts desegregation, deracialisation and non-racialism.

## **The Missing Link: Asset-Based Measures of Poverty Towards Asset–Income Threshold and Networth Threshold**

Oliver Mtapuri, Ph.D scholar, School of Development Studies, University of KwaZulu Natal, Howard College Campus, Durban 4041, South Africa (Email: [simbaomtapuri@yahoo.com](mailto:simbaomtapuri@yahoo.com)), argues that asset-based measures as well as a combination of assets and income measures, while remaining mindful of the importance of other variables, constitute poverty. The paper focuses on the FGT class of measures and posits drawing asset poverty lines as well as combined asset and income poverty lines as a new contribution to yield Asset-based FGT, Asset-income FGT, Networth FGT and Asset Gini Coefficient. It builds on available literature on the subject and argues that assets do matter and represent the missing link in the measurement of poverty inasmuch as they are critically important in poverty alleviation initiatives. This paper also attempts to provide new tools with differentiating capacity to identify those who are either asset poor or income poor or both; as well as those who are “networth poor”, understood as asset-income threshold less debt premised on the fact that debt has a debilitating and stifling effect on the poor.

### **Death Anxiety and Religious Conviction among Cancer Patients in Kerala , India**

Joseph I. Injodey, Principal, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Rajagiri P.O., Kalamassery - 683 104, Ernakulam, Kerala, India (Email: josephinjodey@rajagiri.edu) presents the results of a study conducted among 330 cancer patients in Kerala, which examines death anxiety and religious conviction. Administering a death anxiety scale to the respondents, the author measures the influence of relevant variables. As a relatively unexplored area in the context of Kerala society, the study shows that there was a general increase in religious conviction and practices as a source of comfort and palliation among the cancer patients. This paper offers useful insights for social work practitioners who, along with family members, care givers, neighbours, community members and religious leaders, work hand in hand to reduce death anxiety, fear, frustrations, depression, negative attitudes and destructive feelings among cancer patients.

### **From Grassroots to Global: Silent Revolution through Organic Farming in Kerala , India**

Hubby Mathew, Research Scholar, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram Dindugul, Tamil Nadu, India, and Programme Director, Peermade Development Society Peermade – 685 531, Idukki, Kerala, India, (Email : hmathew@hotmail.com ), presents a case study which throws light on the silent revolution that has been taking place in the farming sector of Idukki district of Kerala State in India. Spearheaded by the Peermade Development Society (PDS), a leading voluntary organisation in South India this has been effected through the introduction of organic farming. The holistic organic package of practices and activities developed and introduced by PDS through the supply of quality seedlings, introduction of vermicompost and vermiculture, biocontrol agents, organic certification, value addition, processing and exporting through the farmers' consortium have brought new life to the agricultural sector in the study area. PDS has been able to mobilise a large number of farmers to organic farming and within a short span of time PDS could produce thousands of organic farmers. The PDS initiative in organic farming may also be seen as a counter movement against degenerative and unaffordable chemical applications and the neo-colonisation trait set in by the multinationals.