**Week 14: Global Inequalities; Theories of Development; Stratification**

**STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS**

This week takes a broader perspective to consider sociological approaches to studying global inequalities and stratification.

1. What is global stratification? How is economic and social development usually measured? What is the Gini coefficient?
2. How do the three key sociological approaches (functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism) explain global stratification?
3. What three types of countries did the Cold War-based classification system identify? How do they compare to each other?
4. What does Wallerstein mean by the World System? What is it based on? How does it explain global inequalities?
5. In what groups does the World System approach divide countries? What criteria does this approach use to designate countries to a particular category? Explain the characteristics of each category.
6. Explain the basis of the World Bank classification of countries.
7. What is deindustrialization and which countries does it impact the most?
8. Explain debt accumulation processes and how they impact poorer countries.
9. What does the reading mean by the global feminization of poverty? What are its causes and key features?
10. What are the consequences of global poverty on different segments of society around the world? What are two types of modern day slavery?
11. How does the modernization theory explain global inequalities? What are they key drivers of inequalities from this perspective?
12. How does the dependency theory explain global inequalities? What is the main difference between the dependency and modernization theories?

**General Discussion Questions:**

* + - 1. What is capital flight? What impact did it have on the US? Overall, in your opinion, is the US a winner or a loser of the global economic system?
      2. Who is responsible for modern day slavery? Compare how the dependency and modernization theories would explain such slavery. Which explanation do you find more convincing?
      3. Based on this week’s readings, what role does history play in reproducing global and local inequalities? For example, how important is colonial history in the continued underdevelopment of certain countries as well as in the African American communities in the US?