



Editor's Introduction

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We write this editorial note with a mix of bittersweet emotions. This issue marks the conclusion of our tenure as editors, and we, Andrej Grubačić and Rallie Murray, are deeply grateful for the journey. We extend our sincere thanks to our readers, peer reviewers, board members, and the entire PEWS community. We are particularly indebted to our dedicated editorial team, which has at various times included Isaac Kamola, Julien Franocis Graber, Michelle Glowa, and Alexander White.

At the same time, we are thrilled to welcome the new editorial team. Devparna Roy of Nazareth University and Daniel Steven Pasciuti of Georgia State University are not only outstanding historical social scientists but also remarkable colleagues. We offer them our best wishes for their new role—with the current state of the world-system, they are certainly going to need it!

This issue also provides a special opportunity to say farewell to the inimitable **Dale W. Tomich**. Dale was a revered teacher, mentor, colleague, and friend to many. As the last member of the original Fernand Braudel Center group at SUNY Binghamton, his legendary seminars on world-systems analysis shaped several generations of scholars. His brilliant interpretation of



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“second slavery” and his work on relational and incorporated comparison profoundly influenced the study of capitalism and slavery. His masterpiece, *Slavery in the Circuit of Sugar: Martinique and the World Economy, 1830–1848* (Tomich 1990), received one of the first PEWS book awards in 1991.

We are honored to publish a two-part interview with Dale, conducted by his student and friend Juan Giusti-Cordero between January and July 2024. The second part of this interview will appear in *Journal of World-Systems Research* 32(1), Winter/Spring 2026. The interview offers a unique opportunity to engage directly with the development of the relational methodology that lies at the heart of world-systems analysis. Dale insisted that the innovation of scholars like Immanuel Wallerstein and Fernand Braudel was more than just an emphasis on broader geographic or longer temporal perspectives. It was the formulation of theoretical and methodological foundations for a new unified social science.

We are pleased to feature a diverse array of research articles in this issue.

Peter Wilkin’s timely article, “**(Geo)culture and the West’s War Against Gaza,**” discusses the role new media in the digital age has played in exposing and undermining the propaganda machine the West has relied on to construct a version of itself necessary for the protection of civilization.

Moving to a different side of the world-economy, Liu and Wilson’s “**Border Disputes in the Global Periphery amid Declining U.S. Hegemonic Influence: The Case of Guyana and Venezuela**” explores the power imbalance among states within the world-system. It argues that this imbalance is not merely between the hegemon and peripheral states but also how semi-peripheral and peripheral states take advantage of their economic and political relations with each other, creating a power imbalance that puts smaller states in the periphery at an even greater disadvantage.

Anees, Hassan, and Ayman’s article, “**The Impact of Economic Dependence on Economic Growth in Egypt: An Empirical Analysis (1977–2021),**” provides insight into the role that investment, aid dependence, trade, and debt play on Egypt’s economic growth and offers possibilities to lead the country’s economy away from the negative effects of economic dependence.

In “**Wallerstein after ’68: Marxism and the Making of *The Modern World-System*,**” Sam Chian takes up the topic of the development of world-systems research, examining how Marxist thought (but not Marxist doctrine) contributed to the development of his theoretical framework and mode of critical inquiry.

“**Global Capital and Amphibian Extinctions: Ecologically Unequal Exchange with Colonial and Neocolonial Sri Lanka**” by Gunderson, Charles, and Fyock explores the ties between economy and ecology through the lens of species impact, and the analytical linkage between the extinction and endangerment of species in the periphery with economic exploitation by the core.

Toufic Sarriddine engages with current scholarship on Chinese-U.S. competition in the world economy in his article “**Phnom Penh Retrograde?: Assessing Chinese Economic Hegemony in**

Cambodia,” taking as his locus of analysis the political-economic relations between the United States and Cambodia in opposition to China-Cambodia political-economic relations.

We are happy to conclude that world-systems scholarship is in good shape. As we enter this age of turbulence and transition, the **unidisciplinary** project that turns conventional social science on its head and breaks with liberal narratives of capitalism and modernity offers a lot of analytical clarity, promise, and hope.

Disclosure Statement: Any conflicts of interest are reported in the acknowledgments section of the article's text. Otherwise, authors have indicated that they have no conflict of interests upon submission of the article to the journal.

References

Tomich, Dale. 1990. *Slavery in the Circuit of Sugar: Martinique and the World Economy, 1830–1848*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.