

Albert, Mathias (Frankfurt/M.) 1999

One Society, many Perspectives: Contemporary Theories of World Society

This short introductory contribution is to set the stage for the symposium. It identifies theoretical deficiencies in contemporary conceptualizations of global change (the 'globalization debate') and the need of broader ('grand') designs for studying it. The concept of 'world society' is then introduced as one such design which however carries with it a number of different meanings in the disciplines of international relations and sociology. Establishing a dialogue among the various contributions on world society-thought is identified as a potentially fruitful contribution to analyzing global change in a theoretically rich fashion. Finally, the individual contributions to the symposium are introduced and the symposium's purpose to serve as a signpost for further discussion is outlined.