BOOK REVIEW

Globalisation
Challenges to Research and Governance
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Globalisation can be understood as a variety of flows, controlling these flows is a means of controlling globalisation. This is the central claim of this book: essentially Saskia Sassen's old "global cities" theory with added considerations about control and administration of globalisation.

The background of the book is explained on page 9: "[t]he book is a joint effort of an […] international network of academics and professional experts from diverse disciplinary and institutional background". Named the Tampere group, the number of participants varies. When the book was compiled, the group had 43 members from eleven countries. The aim of the Tampere group was to develop convergent approaches and methods for globalisation research. Between 2001 and 2008 the group members met a total of five times in Italy and Finland. This book is a final report of the group's work between 2001 and 2008.

The line of research the book is dealing with is the impact of globalisation on societies. It does not try to explain globalisation as it considers globalisation an inevitability that can, however, be studied. Thus, whereas Karl Popper spoke of "social engineering", this book might be considered to represent "global engineering", i.e. practically oriented management of the consequences of globalisation. In earlier literature there has been much philosophical and political debate about whether globalisation should be seen as an unavoidable fact. This debate is not in the scope of this book.

Globalisation literature is very rich. Since it has been subject of so many books and studies for decades, one could be tempted to ask whether this book is a little late? What insights into globalisation have previously been missed that would create a need for yet another book on the subject? What has escaped the focus of Saskia Sassen, Anthony Giddens or Jürgen Habermas? In the book, it is acknowledged that there has been very much previous research into the subject, although this is not mentioned specifically.

The book's focus is on the consequences of globalisation. There is an attempt to theorise how to administer globalisation. The hypothesis of the book is not totally new: globalisation is seen as an economy-driven process (Sassen) which however can be controlled by means of politics and legislation (Habermas). The impact of globalisation differs in different countries (Hardt & Negri), which calls for different ways to administer it (Habermas). Globalisation has its greatest impact on cities and the urban labour market (Sassen).

The hypothesis suggests that globalisation can be viewed as a "system of flows". International migration, the flow of people, is one of these; it is connected to other flows such as the flow of (economic) capital. Thus the hypothesis is closely related to Sassen's theory of global cities. The flows would proceed via social networks as suggested in social capital theories. The book posits that there are various flows which when combined produce a system of flows.

Because Sassen and social capital theorists have previously come to more or less the same kinds of conclusions, there is relatively little that is new in the theory of flows. The

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novelty of this book is that it suggests managing globalisation would amount to affecting these flows by the means of policy and legislation. The actual outcome could be innovative but it may also be used as grounds for measures such as reactive migration control.

The research design of the Tampere group's research was mostly based on qualitative data, namely the use of informants. The methodology is explained in more detail in the Introduction. The members of the Tampere group also cooperated extensively with each other between 2001 and 2008 and many ideas stemmed from discussions between the group's members. From the very start of the project, the group took a multi-disciplinary stance towards globalisation.

Implications and interpretation of the results of the group's work are reported in this book. The book consists of eighteen articles, written by Ilari Karppi, Elina Rantalahti, Mara Di Berado, Antonio Pacinelli, Simone Di Zio, Olli Kultalahti, Arno Tanner, Berhane Tewolde, Enrico Todisco, Bruno Lefort, Cristian Norocel, Ari-Veikko Anttiroiko, Jukka Kultalahti, Jukka Viljanen, Timo Aarrevaara, Veli-Pekka Nurmi and Ari Stenvall.

The articles are grouped into four sections: 1) analysing and developing methods; 2) human mobility and development in globalisation: 3) cultural aspects of globalisation; 4) governance of globalisation.

The need for future research is discussed: "[m]methodological aspects […] need further development and harmonisation" (p. 27). This refers to that the multi-disciplinary approach that is one of the strengths of the study, but also created some challenges. For example, different authors refer to the same concepts differently. This is an endemic problem in the social sciences and is not alleviated even when this study's concepts are compared to established concepts used in migration studies, economics and human and social capital theories.

As a research report the book is satisfactory. It includes all the basic elements that a good social scientific study should. Nevertheless, there are some shortcomings. For example, the reasons why foreign immigrants are often on the margins of the labour market. Some previous research by Alejandro Portes (ethnic economies) is ignored as well as the longitudinal studies carried out by George Borjas. These earlier studies show that, contrary to what is suggested in this book, foreign immigrants do not end up on the margins of the labour market by choice. That in fact, their labour market position increases as the period of residence in the receiving country increases. However, despite some shortcomings the book reflects a good piece of research.

242