Globalization

PROMISES AND POSSIBILITIES
DILEMMAS AND DISCONTENTS
The Ubiquity of Globalization
Globalization, Citizenship, and Identity

Barack Obama. *Dreams from My Father*.

Kwame Appiah
Globalization in Education

- Hathaway Brown: Center for Global Citizenship

  “The Center for Global Citizenship was established because we believe a 21st century education must place at its core an emphasis on a broad understanding of the world. Its job is to promote global understanding and citizenship, foster a deep appreciation for the cultures of the world, challenge students to critically think about the world’s most pressing global issues, and help students understand how the United States fits into a global context.”
The Allure and Anxiety of Globalization

Japanese, Edo period, 18th century, Two Blind Men Crossing a Log Bridge
The Ambiguous Landscape of Globalization

- Seductive but Precarious. Inviting but Unknown.

Wanderer Above a Sea of Fog. Caspar David Friedrich.
Globalization as an IDEA (origins)

- The Tower of Babel: A Primal “Unity” of Humanity Gives Way to Fragmentation and Dis-Integration.
- Socrates: “I am not an Athenian or a Greek, but a citizen of the world” (though he never physically left Athens)
- The “Stoic” Philosophers described themselves as “Cosmopolitans” (cosmos = world; polis = city).
- The Idea of a “World Religion” (rather than a “tribal,” ethnically-specific religion)
- The Enlightenment vision of a world governed by universal norms of reason, science, and human rights.
Past “Globalizations”

- Alexander the Great (influenced by Stoicism)
- The Roman Empire
- Global Religious Movements (“catholic” = universal)
- European Imperialism and the resulting mixture of peoples and cultures (15\textsuperscript{th} – 20\textsuperscript{th} Centuries)
- Competing global ideologies: Liberalism v. Marxism
- Construction of the first Trans-National Institutions after WWI and WWII (United Nations, European Union, the “Esperanto” language experiment).
While there are clear historical antecedents, most who discuss “Globalization” today sense that we are living through something quite different from earlier forms of this phenomenon -- that the late 20th and early 21st centuries represent a “Neo” Globalization powered by new technologies, more permeable national boundaries, more fluid personal identities, global-scale dilemmas (climate change), and unprecedented human mobility.
In Search of an Analytical Framework

- We often use the word “Globalization” as a verbal shorthand for a range of complex conditions, processes, and transformations.

- It’s often unclear whether “globalization” is being used descriptively (“This is inevitably what the world is becoming”) or normatively (“Isn’t a Globalization a great thing – a Brave New World that we must work to create.”)
In Search of an Analytical Framework

- Globality (a “condition”)
- Globalization (an interlinked set of “processes” giving rise to the “condition” of Globality)
- Global Imaginary (a shift in how humans understand themselves – which is both cause and consequence of Globalization)

“Globalization processes do not merely occur on the objective, material level but involve the subjective plane of human consciousness.” (Manfred Steger)
“Globality”

“[S]ocial condition characterized by tight global, economic, political, cultural, and environmental interconnections and flows that make most of the currently existing borders and boundaries irrelevant.” (Manfred Steger)

The values that underwrite this condition are currently contested, structured by the following antinomies:

Laissez-faire capitalism, individualism, competition

vs.

Communal and cooperative norms
“Globalization”

- “[A] set of social processes that appear to transform our present social condition of weakening nationality into one of globality.”

- Globalization is a dynamic, transformative process which implies we are “leaving behind the condition of modern nationality . . . . we are moving towards the new condition of postmodern globality . . . . and we have not yet reached it.” (Steger)
“Global Imaginary”

- The “Psychology” of Globalization: The “growing consciousness of belonging to a global community.”

How do we now situate ourselves in the world? How do we now structure our identities to accommodate our global connections? How do our policies and discussions reflect, accommodate, privilege, and shape transnational and globalizing processes?
Globalization: Four Dimensions

- Globalization (a “process” with 4 dimensions)
  1. The creation of new social networks and activities that cut across traditional boundaries
  2. The expansion and stretching of social relations
  3. Acceleration of social exchanges and activities (collapsing the space between “global” and “local”)
  4. A transformation of human consciousness: “Globalization involves both the macro-structures of community and the micro-structures of personhood.” (Steger).
Disputed Aspects of the Global Imaginary

- Two Axes: Descriptive vs Normative

- Levels of Interdependence
  Depth of Integration
  Scale
  Causes
  Chronology
  Trajectory
  Impact
  Policy Outcomes
Globalization is a set of interlinked processes:

1. **Material Processes** (technology, communication, transportation, economic structures, int’l trade)

1. **Psychological Processes** (shift in human identity and consciousness)
The Indeterminacy of Globalization

But these processes do not have a pre-determined “endpoint”

“Globalization is not merely an objective process but a plethora of metaphors and stories that define, describe, and analyze that very process . . . [that] seek to endow this process with norms, values, and meaning.” (Steger)
The Indeterminacy of Globalization

- Globalization, in other words, is not a fixed process with an inevitable “destination” but an ongoing argument among competing “narratives” of what values the new global order should advance and embody.
- The world may be “converging” towards a condition of greater unity and interdependency.”
- But there is great “divergence” over what form that new global order should assume.
An “Narrative” in this context is a way to “tell a story” about what Globalization is, why it is important, and what values it should promote.

Two of the most common “Narratives of Globalism” are:

1. “Market Globalism” (Tom Friedman)
2. “Justice Globalism”
   - Manfred Steger
Market Globalism

“Market Globalism seeks to endow “globalization” with free-market norms and neoliberal meanings.” (Steger)

Steger’s “Five Claims of Market Globalism”

Claim 1: Globalization is about the liberalization and global integration of markets.
Claim 2: Globalization is inevitable and irreversible.
Claim 3: Nobody is in charge of globalization.
Claim 4: Globalization benefits everyone.
Claim 5: Globalization furthers the spread of democracy in the world.
Justice Globalism

- “[J]ustice Globalism constructs an alternative vision of globalization based on egalitarian ideals of global solidarity and distributive justice.” (Steger)

- **Justice Globalism’s critique of Market Globalism**

  “[L]iberalization and global integration of free markets leads to greater social inequalities, environmental destruction, the escalation of global conflicts and violence, the weakening of participatory forms of democracy, the proliferation of self-interest and consumerism, and the further marginalization of the powerless around the world.” (Steger)
Globalization may be inevitable, but its final form and character can and must be shaped by intentional policies that prioritize egalitarian principles.

We share a common fate endangered by authoritarian, environmental, and social threats. We share a common humanity that demands we moderate our desires in accordance with others’ needs.
Globalization is often associated with the term “Cosmopolitanism” (“World – City”). But that might mean one of two very different things:

1. We “transcend” our differences (linguistic, religious, cultural) and enter into a new form of community based on our common humanity.

2. We remain embedded in our local communities and attached to our local traditions but develop complex, overlapping identities that unite the global and local, the universal and the particular.
Implications for Schools

- Schools have enthusiastically embraced the rhetoric of globalization and global citizenship as essential components of a 21st Century Education.
- But as this presentation has shown, “globalization” is not a term with a self-evident meaning. It is a term freighted with a range of complex meanings and controversies.
- Schools must therefore do more than simply recite the rhetoric of globalization. They must help students interrogate its meaning and think through its complexities.
Implications for Schools

- Is the purpose of a “globalized curriculum” to prepare students for careers in multi-national corporate entities (Google, Apple, Exxon/ Mobil)?
- Is the purpose of a “globalized curriculum” to promote “non-economic” goods like greater social and civic awareness – greater engagement with “global scale” problems like climate change?
- Or should a globalized curriculum adopt a “multiplist” approach and “teach the controversy” between competing narratives of globalization?
Conveniently for the two of us, Globalization is a natural focal point for interdisciplinary studies. Its complex, multi-sided nature – and its many diverse manifestations (economic, cultural, historical, political, psychological) – arguably require the adoption of several different disciplinary “lenses” “Global Studies” is an emerging sub-field within Interdisciplinary Programs
Structuring a Course on Globalization

- Teach the controversies
- Investigate the history of previous “Globalizations”
- Identify the disciplines

History
Economics
Political Philosophy
Ethics
Law
Physical Sciences (Global Warming)
Structuring a Course on Globalization

- Identify/Interrogate the Core Concepts in the debate
  Rights
  Justice
  Citizen
  Citizenship
  Markets
  *Polis
  *Cosmo-Polis
Structuring a Course on Globalization

- Projects

- Analytic - “Food Chain” inquiries; Historical, Philosophical, Ethical, Scientific research into present circumstances

- Synthetic - Policy Recommendations, Proposals for Marketable goods/service,