

**International Sociological Debates
Universitat de Barcelona (ISDUB)**

Dijous 7 de març 2013, 16h
Aula Magna de la Facultat d'Economia i Empresa

**Prof. Michael Burawoy 'New social theory
for new social movements'
University of California, Berkeley
President de la International Sociological Association (ISA)**

Presentació de la Dra. Marta Soler Gallart, directora del Grup de Recerca Consolidat en Gènere, Identitat i Societat, organitzador de la sessió.

LECTURE ABSTRACT: New Social Theory for New Social Movements

The social movements of the last two years -- ranging from Arab Spring to Indignados, from the land struggles in India, China and Latin America to the student movement against the privatization of higher education and the Occupy Movement -- present a challenge to social theory as well as to capitalism. They call for a new sociology that links social movements to the state-sponsored, unregulated commodification of labor, nature, money and knowledge that characterizes third-wave marketization. Such a new sociology, built on the shoulders of Karl Polanyi's *The Great Transformation*, reconstructs his theory for the new century just as he reconstructed Karl Marx's theory of capitalism for the twentieth century. Do these recent social movements add up to a Polanyian "counter-movement" that might arrest and even reverse third-wave marketization? Or are they a prolegomenon for the *intensification* of third-wave marketization and the destruction of our planet?

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Michael Burawoy, Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley, best known as author of *Manufacturing Consent: Changes in the Labor Process under Monopoly Capitalism* and as the leading proponent of "Public Sociology". Burawoy was President of the American Sociological Association (ASA) in 2004 and is currently the President of the International Sociological Association (ISA).

Michael Burawoy has been a participant observer of industrial workplaces in four countries: Zambia, United States, Hungary and Russia. In his different projects he has tried to illuminate -- from the standpoint of the working class -- postcolonialism, the organization of consent to capitalism, the peculiar forms of class consciousness and work organization in state socialism, and, finally, the dilemmas of transition from socialism to capitalism. Over the course of four decades of research and teaching, he has developed the extended case method that allows broad conclusions to be drawn from ethnographic research. The same methodology is advanced in *Global Ethnography*, a book coauthored with 9 graduate students that shows how globalization can be studied "from below" through participating in the lives of those who experience it. No longer

able to work in factories, recently he turned to the study of his own workplace – the university – to consider the way sociology itself is produced and then disseminated to diverse publics. His advocacy of public sociology has generated much heat in many a cool place, and along these lines, he has recently put forward a monograph in *Current Sociology* about the dilemmas of doing public sociology in different regions and political regimes. Throughout his sociological career he has engaged with Marxism, seeking to reconstruct it in the light of his research and more broadly in the light of historical challenges of the late 20th and early 21st. centuries. He is the editor of *Global Dialogue*, the newsletter and magazine of the International Sociological Association, and has launched international on-line seminars such as *Global Sociology, Live!* and *Public Sociology, Live!* with renowned sociologists from worldwide.

For more information, see: <http://burawoy.berkeley.edu/>;

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Burawoy