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## Disparities in Development

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Welcome to this special issue, which is a product of the 6th Annual Sociology of Development Conference, “Disparities in Development,” hosted by the Sociology Department of Wayne State University in April 2018. This was an exceptionally engaging and productive forum, which addressed a wide range of development issues, broadened the intellectual discourse of our sub-discipline, and attracted new scholars from other disciplines as well as practitioners from outside academia. Participants from eight countries gave more than 125 presentations over the three-day event. There were six keynote talks, including an opening address by Saskia Sassen at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. The papers presented in this issue are by four of the keynote speakers, Rina Agarwala, Arthur Alderson, Thomas Dietz, and Moshe Semyonov, and well reflect both the quality and the diversity of discourse at the conference.

Newly this year, the conference included a focus on development in the Global North, in addition to the more traditional Global North–Global South framework. The setting of Detroit and surrounding legacy cities provided a powerful backdrop for considering these issues in a local context. Multiple panels focused on economic, environmental, and educational disparities in Detroit and Southeast Michigan, many of which are of serious local concern and attract national attention. This dimension of development was highlighted in a very well-received closing plenary on “The Myth of Development,” organized by local community members in Detroit.

Our thanks to the University of California Press for its sponsorship of this conference, along with the Michigan State University Department of Sociology, and a host of supporters at Wayne State, including Dr. Keith Whitfield, Provost, Dr. Stephen Lanier, Vice President for Research, Dr. Ahmad Ezzeddine, Associate Vice President for Educational Outreach and International Programs, and Dr. Wayne Raskind, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

A special thanks to our editorial board for their ongoing support in offering guidance, encouraging high-quality submissions, and reviewing manuscripts. As we near the end of our fourth year of publication, it will soon be time to start rotating board membership.

And finally, our thanks to you—our contributors and readers—for making *Sociology of Development* an integral part of the development discourse. As evidence of the journal’s visibility and impact, two recent articles in *Sociology of Development* achieved national and international recognition. Matthew Sanderson received a Best Article Award from the

International Sociological Association's Sociology of Migration section for his paper "To the Richest Go the Spoils? Immigration, Development, and the North-South Divide, 1970–2005." And Şahan Savaş Karataşlı received a Best Article Award from the American Sociological Association's Political Economy of the World-System section, for his paper "The Capitalist World-economy in the *Longue Durée*: Changing Modes of the Global Distribution of Wealth, 1500–2008." Congratulations to Drs. Sanderson and Karataşlı! We greatly value the opportunity to be a platform for such high-quality contributions to the development literature. ■