

**INSTITUTE OF OCCIDENTAL STUDIES (IKON)
UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA**

And

**The Anthropology and Sociology Programme of the School of Social, Development and
Environmental Studies, Faculty Social Sciences and Humanities UKM**

Cordially invite you to IKON's Inaugural Public Lecture by

Dr. Leslie Sklair

Emeritus Professor of Sociology
London School of Economics and Political Science
United Kingdom

Date: Wednesday 8th March 2006

Time: 2.00 – 4.30 pm

Venue: Bilik Senat UKM

Chair: Professor Dato' Dr. Shamsul Amri Baharuddin

**FROM STATE-CENTRIST SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT TO
TRANSNATIONAL GLOBALIZATION**

The sociology of development has always been dominated by state-centrist concepts. To a greater or lesser extent, all the main approaches to development—imperialism, modernization, neo-Marxist (even the global sounding world-systems), modes of production, developmental state, participatory—operate with state-centrist concepts and methodologies, driven largely by the practices and politics of the West. When globalization arrived in the 1980s as an alternative paradigm in the social sciences, the main approaches to globalization as a theory of and methodology for development—world-systems, global culture, global polity and society, global capitalism—were also influenced by state-centrist conceptions, but the globalization challenge to the sociology of development has transformed both scholarly and public perception. Professor Sklair will discuss his own contribution to this debate, the transnational approach to globalization and development, acknowledging the continued existence of states and the continued power of the major states. This is based on the concept of transnational practices at the economic, political and culture-ideology levels. These are practices that cross state borders but do not necessarily originate from state institutions or agents. Transnational corporations, the transnational capitalist class and the culture-ideology of consumerism are the three building blocks of what is termed global system theory, an attempt to conceptualize capitalist globalization. In this sociology of development, the focus is on how the transnational capitalist class and its four fractions, namely owners and controllers of TNCs and their local affiliates; globalizing bureaucrats and politicians; globalizing professionals; and consumerist elites (merchants and media), have colonized societies all over the globe. They have done this by extending the scale and scope of the commodification process in ways undreamt of by classical Marxists. Capitalist discourses of globalization, competitiveness and sustainable development are promoted everywhere and thus serve to conceal the severity of the two central crisis of capitalist globalization: the class polarization crisis and the ecological crisis. The inescapable conclusion of this analysis is that other, non-capitalist ways of resolving these crises are urgently required.

Bio-data of Emeritus Prof. Dr. Leslie Sklair



Dr. Leslie Sklair is emeritus professor of sociology at LSE and has been Visiting Professor at the University of Southern California, New York University, The New School, University of Sydney, Hong Kong University and, presently, Strathclyde University in Scotland. He has lectured on globalization all over the world. Editions of his *Globalization: Capitalism and its Alternatives* (2002) have been translated into Japanese, Portuguese, Persian, Spanish and Korean [Chinese and Brazilian editions forthcoming]. It is the updated version of *Sociology of the Global System* (first edition 1991; second edition 1995). His study of the Fortune Global 500, *The Transnational Capitalist Class*, was published in 2001 (Chinese edition 2002). He is also the editor and contributor of *Capitalism and Development* (1994). Papers from his current research project, "Iconic architecture and capitalist globalization", have been published in *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* (2005) and *CITY* (2006).

This event is free and open to all with no ticket required. Entry is on a first come, first serve basis. For further information email evna@pkrisc.cc.ukm.my or geralckl@pkrisc.cc.ukm.my or phone 03-89213967 or 03-89213665.