

THE GLOBAL SOUTH VIA THE US SOUTH¹

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The journal *The Global South*, with its broad geographic and methodological parameters, was generated from specifically local conditions, as a range of faculty at the University of Mississippi began to converse about the significance of contemporary globalization and the history of global exchange in their research. Mindful of the historical trajectories and statistical proportions through which the Global South is often conceptualized (particularly as an heir to the term Third World), these scholars were more energized by the potential flexibility of this framework: its overt geographic imprecision. The term Global South flaunts the impossibility of simple divisions, because the blunt instrument of the equator cannot pretend fully to map the planet's socioeconomic conditions. Accordingly, it provided a particularly useful rubric for scholars situated, despite their geographically diverse research projects, in Mississippi.² A state with a history of acute racial exploitation and violence as well as continuing struggles with poverty and poor access to educational and healthcare resources – yet simultaneously located in a nation (in-)famous for its wealth and its institutions devoted to the spread of neoliberalism – this locale (arguably, like all locales) necessitates methodologies that can negotiate an array of geographic scales, from the planet to the neighborhood, with numerous spatial configurations in between. Such approaches are vital, after all, for residents of the Global South, as peoples historically and/or currently

oppressed by colonialism and global capitalism investigate their similarities to and differences from others around the globe in order to develop expressive forms and political strategies that can generate new perspectives and possibilities.

Now editing our eighth volume, we publish special issues organized through remarkably diverse cartographies. Featuring the work of authors from around the globe – and often guest-edited by scholars at other institutions – these collections also vary widely in theme. Some provide perspectives on how different continents or global regions have experienced globalization; some explore how distinct enterprises – such as Nollywood or the Panama Canal – have altered global relations; some consider how aesthetic works from widespread locales configure particular problems in globalization, and some seek to understand the relationship between the southern United States and the Global South. In these efforts, our authors mobilize varying spatial methodologies: diasporic studies, postcolonial studies, area studies, comparative studies, and urban/rural studies, to name a few. What remains paramount, from the perspective of *The Global South*, is to understand how forces that seek to impose exploitative and hegemonic economic and political forms have been and can be resisted, both in discrete geopolitical spaces and through broader collaborative networks.

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² Nancy Bercaw, Kirsten Dellinger, Jeffrey T. Jackson, Kathryn B. McKee, and Annette Trefzer, "A Short History of the Faculty Working Group on the Global South at the University of Mississippi", manuscript.