Comprehensive Examination in Globalization and Development
Day Two: Specialized Examination
Fall 2007

Answer three of the questions below. You must answer at least one question on each of the two topics.

Topic I: Gender

1) Discuss how the intersection of the global and the local has influenced outcomes with respect to women's economic position, women's rights, women's movements, and women's activism. Consider this question with empirical examples from at least two different world regions. Explain where we stand in the field in regard to the debate about whether feminism as a theory and/or an ideology applies only to women in developed industrialized countries.

2) Explain the increasing role of gender as a basis for social movements in developing countries. Draw examples from different regions of the developing world and assess the relative importance of social class and ethnic identity in differentiating women's collective action.

3) A debate in the field of Gender and Development has centered on the conditions that are more likely to bring about women's empowerment understood as the expansion of women's opportunities and rights. The debate has been dominated by three major paradigms, reforms from above, pressures from below, and transnational influences. By using studies on at least two different world regions, discuss the extent to which the processes emphasized in these paradigms have contributed to expanding women's citizenship.

4) Using examples drawn from particular countries or regions of the world, evaluate the role of culture and religion in shaping women's conceptions of their roles as wives and mothers. To what extent are these affected by rural-urban migration and by international migration?

Topic I: Health

1) Identify at least three social aspects of the disease that make HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa different—and worse—than the collective experience of HIV/AIDS in the United States or Europe? And identify one social aspect that is a strength for combating HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.

2) Many non-governmental organizations, as well as multilateral agencies, are involved in health promotion and disease prevention programs. Often, if not always, these programs are based on a public health model aimed at education and changing individual's perceptions of risk. From the literature and your own experiences with such program implementation (a) what are the major structural impediments to the introduction of educational, screening, or other public health programs in developing countries? (b) What are some of the general cultural barriers that undermine the efforts of outside health promoters? (c) If you were advising an international NGO that is working in several different countries to introduce a major infectious disease prevention program, what general advice would you give the directors in terms of designing the program for specific countries and even smaller geographical areas?