



**WORLD SOCIETY FOUNDATION**

Work-in-progress 25. 01. 21

**Title: The past, present and future of World Society Research – lineages of 40 years of activities - an archive for rereading**

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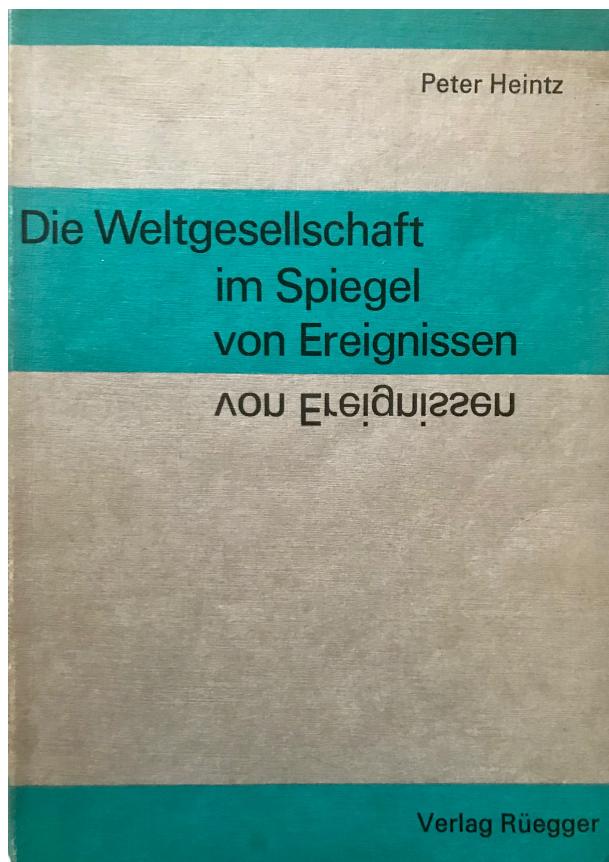
VI Concept and scenario of presentation and resonance

**I Preamble**

The WSF looks back to 40 years of activities (2022) targeting the promotion of research on world society founded (1982) by Peter Heintz addressing the scholars of various disciplines of social sciences. At this occasion the board decided to sketch the concept of world society at the beginning of activities and to embed the research done into the streams of events from the past to present in world society between North and South, Western and Eastern hemispheres.

**II Overview**

Peter Heintz published as basic concept of the constitution acts the book "Ereignisse im Spiegel der Weltgesellschaft": "Events in the Mirror of World Society". The founder



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contributed a rich research biography, an encyclopaedic and utopic talent to the start of the WSF activities since 1982. In the book an open-minded spirit of the founder appears, his style of writing, which was not easy to understand for students and scholars.

The board started the promotion activities in the early 80ties. Two periods of promotion activities can be discerned:

**Basics 1982 – 2006** *promoting individual projects by open calls and contests.* The Foundation started addressing the international community of scholars, mainly announced in journals. The project proposals have been evaluated and selected in joint meetings by the members of the board, the decisions were communicated and the grants transferred. In this basic period scholars and institutions of high reputation participated. A first period of book publications document highly qualified papers and authors. The first period was experimental, the quality and form of project reports varied between a paper form and articles published in journals or books. After 1990 the break down of the SU and the following changes in Eastern Europe, the Foundation supported meetings in Warsaw and the building of networks addressing the civil society in the former states. This support was complementary to other funds, to INTAS and SNF. In this period guest professors, Mansilla (Bolivia) and Vorozheikina (Russian Federation) were invited promoting the building of networks and involving students.

**Change 2007 – 2022** *to targeted and communicative promotion.* At the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary the board changed to a more directed strategy of promotion and the embedding into conferences enhancing the communication between the participants and its multiplication effects. It started a series of 12 international conferences to actual global topics: created the World Society Awards for scholars who contributed through excellent papers to the topic; founded the World Societies Series of books. The first conference and dedication of prices has taken place in Zurich linked to an exhibition event “Weltgesellschaft in Zürich” combining the scientific conference with events of groups and audiences discussing problems of the town; children and schools designed world society at places in Zurich. From the different continents selected speakers sent congratulation addresses with sketches of the state of world society in their contexts. This period evolved to a success story of following conferences; more and more the WSF regional scope of its activities involved scholars from the global South.

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### III “Events in the Mirror of World Society” and the knowledge memory of WSF

The Foundation was aware that during the second period 2007 – 2022 the number of organisations and agencies with transnational issues on the agenda has exploded. While in the first period (1982 – 2006) the term world society still was rarely used, the paper form dominated, in the second period (2007 - 2022) more agencies appeared under the umbrella of “globalization”. The data-flows increased enormously, data sciences seem to be more relevant than social science, algorithms replace theoretical reflection, the virtual facilities displace and superimpose direct communication, man in real space and time became secondary; the paper form made place to virtual and digital texts. In fact, the flows of endless facts and events feed the *panoptic* mirror. They form crowds missing any integration of singular events into interrelations making a deeper sense. – Musil gave an illustration of this panoptic mirror in “Man without Features”: “a see-through ball which dives into a non describable light”.

However, facing this virtual *abundance* the conception world society regained its challenge: what is the *uniqueness* of world society as a concept and heuristic framework? In fact, since the present pandemic crisis the term globalisation is a sinking star, while the term world society gains significantly more voices in media and public discussions.

What is the uniqueness of the term world society? Firstly, the term offers its potential as the largest society embracing all societal units of the earth, i.e. an endless number and variety of societal facts and events. The pandemic crisis created over night a specific mirror demonstrating that nearly all members, the world population, are deeply concerned in regard to the basic values security and health. The actual event-series of pandemic crisis (see Table 1), mark a turning point to world society as a *wholeness* significantly experienced by people everywhere, for instance, the breaking down of mobility and of open borders, economic exchange and activities, i.e. the drivers of globalisation.

Secondly, world society is open and never confined to a specific location remembering the antic picture of “panta rheo”. As well it is characterised by *simultaneity*, i.e. the history and the past continue in present and probably in future. They are only partially or even not foreseeable or cannot be fixed as objective atoms: “Opposite to monads the events are temporary, only for a short time, and dying in order to let to generate new ones” (Whitehead). – It seems that the focus on

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events has some roots in Heintz's anarchistic disposition and utopian affection, which contrasted to his style appreciative for hard science, system theory and structures.

It is evident that he essayed to cope with a tension inherent to the idea of world society. He conceived its roots in one mirror: in his studies in Argentina and then in Zurich he developed the world society as an emerging developmental system (Entwicklungssystem). It presents a complex stratification order of nations along the axes of development drives like urbanisation, education, income and welfare, i.e. drives to "modern man" all-over the globe. But he observed even the increasing counterforces to that optimistic outlook, mainly the role of military-political forces. He described it as de-crystallization of structures matched as seven codes depicting the world wide reality and dynamics: as international stratification system, as power structure, as conglomerate of diverse cultures, as linking of power and stratification, as outcome of history, as world wide sense generating interaction, as field of interactions between partners within a multidimensional space.

The founder focused on the development system which loosed its predominance and attraction. It failed to emanate as the *panorama* mainly also in peripheries and in the global South. The events no longer confirmed the theory of developmental system and stratification. It is the *broken mirror*, reflecting the structures as entropy. It deprives world society from a coherent image and freed the events from the integration into a popular image attracting the people, as well as a sophisticated model for scholars and elites. The events became isolated from its embedding into a coherent world society imagery. Heintz concluded: "The profound change of world society since the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War can – simplifying - described as change of the relation between structuration and political-military power, on the one side, and de-structuration through entropy on the other one." But the dissolving of this panorama is not the only path. Many events migrate into the *crypto* zone, where events reveal a double nature. On the surface, for instance, a leader appears illuminated in official settings, which turn into dark zones of his secret real life masked but transported silently by the event. – The crypto-zone is described in the "autumn of the patriarch" by Gabriel Marques. It is very relevant facing the changes of political military structures, new forms of charismatic leaderships as well as the phenomenon of the so-called "deep states".

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#### IV Archive of projects

The archive aims to create a “memory of knowledge” or a knowledge landscape referring to basic aspects of “Events in the Mirror of World Society”, on the one hand, and documenting the promotion activities of the Foundation, on the other hand. Thereby, the archive follows a time order from the present to the past, (2022 → 2007) and then to the individual promotion (2007 → 1982). It seems more “productive” to reread the events recursively, from today to the previous episodes; in that way an animation effect of the archive is intended freed from dependency paths along a strict “historical” chain from past to present and future.

From events to episodes: the events are similar to clouds, “dying” and volatile. However, observations show that series of events are like words composing sentences and texts, narratives of processes. A significant example is, for instance, the “Syrian narrative of world society” – a long during episode of events in the Arab area continuing to the future. The projects promoted reveal more or less explicit relations to such episodes, for instance, the conference “return of geopolitics”, one of the most significant event series of world society’s power structure. Similarly the youngest period, pandemic crisis, is challenging as unique but certainly connected with the episode and events of former catastrophes. In that manner one could reread the Chernobyl research projects reflecting the question: what does tell us that former catastrophe to the actual pandemic crisis? What could we learn intending, for instance, a research conference or panel addressing the pandemic crisis? Where are the white sheets in previous or coming promotion strategy?

Peter Heintz stimulated sociological studies of world society regularly reading the stream of events in newspapers. From that reason he initiated earlier the archive of daily news in the Sozialarchiv in Zurich. The sensitivity for the qualitative observation of events he used as qualitative approach complementary to the systematic and quantitative methodologies. However, in “Events in the mirror of World Society” the umbrella of the seven codes (mirrors) predominates as construct the soft level of events. It looks like he tried to let open the mental space for “sociological imagination” furnished by the stream of daily events.

Then the time was not yet ripe to take the entropy, the broken window, as a challenge to develop empirical instruments for the event level of analysis. In appendix A we refer to efforts to continue the “event-approach” after the first conference (2007)

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sketching some results concentrated to the post-financial crisis from 2007 to 2012.  
(See appendix A).

In Table 1 we sketch the episodes of world society as clusters of events. It is obvious that these episodes are complex patterns; there is a broad range open to conceive them otherwise or relating them to the various parts, nations, regions and localities of the world.

Simultaneously we try to embed the event-episodes into four *streams* of developments, on the one side, and *frames* of an imagery of world society during the activities of the Foundation. This framework replaces the seven codes postulated 1982 by the founder. But the episodes let them active as a shadow from the past before the crystallized structures turned into the entropic state. It is crucial that the individual promotion projects as well as the conference topics are connected to one or more of the seven codes. (Table 1); thereby, it is noteworthy that some episodes find no explicit codes in the book of 1982.

Table 1: Episodes of events as narratives of world society

Episodes of events	Notes
<b>I</b> <u>Pandemic Crisis: beginning, first, second, third waves</u> <i>Stream II: Chaos and emergency light</i> <i>Frame 6: Threatened World</i> <i>Codes non explicit</i>	<b>Worldwide concern</b> with different incidences on <b>population structures</b> - demographic, age, gender, household - socioeconomic, income, welfare, status, - ethnic status - rural – urban location <b>geographical areas</b> - continental - national - local
<b>II</b> <u>Divergence /Return of Earth to World as largest Society</u> <i>Stream III: Whirls and Divergence</i> <i>Stream IV: Development and Convergence</i> <i>Frame 4: Communitarian, negotiated World</i> <i>Codes non explicit</i>	Signals of catastrophic episodes <b>linked to the climate</b> , destruction of diversity of fauna, nature and habitats. Change from environmental, ecological problems to the fundamental question: <b>end of mankind as against the endless future of earth as planet.</b>
<b>III</b> <u>The world wide Divide of Societies, Electorates and Leaderships</u> <i>Stream III: Whirls and Divergence</i>	Worldwide trends of a divide between classic parties and <b>strengthening of preservative forces</b> in peripheries against the progressive and enlightened groups of <b>metro-poles</b> .

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<i>Frame 5: Own World</i>	
<i>Codes: International Stratification System, Conglomerate of diverse Cultures Linking of Power with Stratification System</i>	
<b>IV</b> <b>Return of Geopolitics</b> <i>Stream III: Whirls and Divergence Frame 3: Domesticating World</i>  <i>Codes: Power Structure Linking Power and Stratification Outcome of History</i>	Change of worldwide <b>power-games</b> - First ranked powers (US, FR, China, India) - Intermediate players (EU) - New players (Turkey, BRIC-States) - Followers (Ukraine, Belarus – FR – EU)
<b>V</b> <b>Janus Worlds</b> <i>Stream III: Whirls and Divergence Frame 6: Own, holy Worlds</i>  <i>Codes: Outcomes of History Conglomerate of diverse Cultures</i>	Fusing <b>modern global</b> orientation with returns to traditional <b>identities</b> (hybridization) - China, FR, Turkey, India, US
<b>VI</b> <b>Competition of New Orders</b> <i>Stream III: Whirls and Divergence Frames 2 and 5: Civil World and Own World</i>  <i>Codes: Linking of Power and Stratification Conglomerate of diverse Cultures Outcomes of History</i>	Liberal and open market rules are replaced by more <b>directive or authoritarian modes</b> : states taking the role of leader or the shift to “directed democracy”.
<b>VII</b> <b>High-speed Economy and flat World</b> <i>Stream I: One World and Floodlight Frame 1: One World</i>  <i>Codes: World wide consent generating interaction Linking Power and Stratification</i>	Acceleration of economy by innovations.. - transport-facilities/ mobility styles - digitalisation - social media - internet of things - robotics - virtual intelligence
<b>VIII</b> <b>Catastrophes / Crises /Wars</b> <i>Stream II: Chaos and emergency Light Frame 6: Threatened World</i>	Series of catastrophes and crises - Waves of refugees - Ukraine – Nowa Rosja - Financial crisis - Fukushima

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<i>Codes non explicit</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 11/9</li> <li>- Wars in Balkan regions</li> <li>- Chernobyl</li> </ul>
<b>IX</b> <b>World of Round Tables</b> <i>Frame IV: Development and Convergence</i> <i>Frame 4: Negotiation World</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Breakdown of the SU</li> <li>- Movements to national independence in Eastern Europe</li> <li>- NIS – New independent states</li> </ul>
<i>Codes: World wide consent generating interaction</i>	
<b>X</b> <b>Diversities mutate into polarities: Two Worlds</b> <i>Stream III: Whirls and Divergences</i> <i>Frame 3: Domesticated World</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Cold war (East-West)</b></li> <li>- risk of a nuclear war</li> <li>- rivalries of order (socialist/capitalist)</li> <li>- worldwide competition for follower nations</li> </ul>
<i>Codes: Linking of Power and Stratification</i> <i>Outcomes of History</i> <i>Conglomerate of diverse Cultures</i>	
<b>XI</b> <b>Reconstruction and developments in Eastern and Western Europe</b> <i>Stream I: One World and Floodlight</i> <i>Frames 1: One World</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marshall plan for the West</li> <li>- Socialist plan economy and strategies</li> <li>- Increasing of affluence</li> </ul>
<i>Codes: World wide Sense generating Interaction</i>	
<b>XII</b> <b>Acknowledgment of diversities</b> <i>Stream I: Floodlight</i> <i>Frames 1,4: Civic, Negotiation World</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post-war change of former colonies to nations, <b>new nation building</b></li> <li>- UN declaration</li> <li>- New nation nationalism and movements</li> </ul>
<b>Previous past</b>	
End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> World War	The facts and claims for victory and finding the new borders between East and West
The “broken” years between 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> world war	German’s trajectory from Weimarer Republik to Fascism and War
End of 1 <sup>st</sup> World War	Versaille treaty and new partition of the world (colonies)

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Episodes from 1870 until 1914

Phase of relative peace

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**A Directed, communicative projects, International Conferences**

- > **Europe's Past, Present, and Future: Utopias and Dystopias**, CES (Committee of European Studies at the 50th anniversary)  
(Iceland 2020 (postponed to 2022 virtual form))
- > **The Political Economy of Migration** University of Hong Kong, 2021  
(postponed to 2022).
- > **Past, Present and Future of African-Asian Relations**, 2019, Neuchâtel, Switzerland
- > **Democracy of the 21st Century: Challenges and the Ways Forward**  
2018, Ulanbator, Mongolia
- > **The Middle Class in World Society: Negotiations, Diversities and Lived Experiences**, 2016, Bangalore 20
- > **Development in the face of Global Inequalities**, Barcelona, 2017, Spain
- > **The Return of Geopolitics Conference**, Tucson, 2016, USA
- > **World Society. Planetary Natures. Crises and Sustainability of the Capitalocene and Beyond**, Binghampton University, 2015, USA
- > **Structures of the World Political Economy and the Future Global Conflict and Cooperation**, University of California-Riverside, 2013, USA
- > **The Global Economic Crisis,- Perceptions and Impacts**, Universität Zürich, 2010, Switzerland
- > **Inequality beyond Globalization – Economic Changes and the Dynamics of Inequality**, Université Neuchâtel, 2008, Switzerland
- > **The Regional Dynamics of Global Social Change**, Conference at the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of World Society Foundation, 2007, Switzerland

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## B Open and individual projects (Basics)

- presented in alphabetic order
  - presented along the time axis (see table 2)
- 

> **Adeymo, Remi** (Ile-Ife, Nigeria). 2000

A Dangerous Awakening: Population Battles in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Standort: [Bibliothek des Soziologischen Institutes: Signatur WSF 2](#)

→ [Abstract](#)

> **Akinsanya, Adeoye** (Ilorin, Nigeria). 1991

The World Bank and Expropriation Disputes: The experiences of Africa. (planning grant)

Standort: [Bibliothek des Soziologischen Institutes: Signatur WSF 3](#)

→ [Abstract](#)

> **Aklaev, Airat** (Moscow). 1999

World Society, Democracy and Ethnic Peace: Ethnopolitics of Democratic Consolidation in Europe, South and East.

Standort: [Bibliothek des Soziologischen Institutes: Signatur WSF 4](#)

→ [Abstract](#)

> **Albert, Mathias** (Frankfurt/M.). 1999

One Society, many Perspectives: Contemporary Theories of World Society.

→ [Abstract](#)

> **Alderson, Arthur S.** (Chapel Hill, NC). 2001

The Structure of the World City System.

→ [Abstract](#)

> **Alston, Philip** (Medford, MA). 1989

A Study of the Concept of Economic and Social Human Rights and its Implications in National and International Law.

→ [Abstract](#)

> **Anderson, Perry** (London). 1985

State Forms Generated by the Capitalist World Economy.

→ [Abstract](#)

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> **Apostolov, Mario** (Sofia). 1999

The Contemporary Dimensions of the Frontier between Christianity and Islam with Special Reference to the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Standort: [Bibliothek des Soziologischen Institutes: Signatur WSF 6](#)

→ [Abstract](#)

> **Arrighi, Giovanni** (Binghamton, N.Y.). 1990

World-Scale Patterns of Labor Unrest, 1870 to the Present.

Standort: [Bibliothek des Soziologischen Institutes: Signatur WSF 53](#)

→ [Abstract](#)

> **Arrighi, Giovanni** (Binghamton, N.Y.). 1996

The Stratification of the World-Economy. Global, Local, and Regional Aspects.

→ [Abstract](#)

> **Ate, Bassey E.** 1988

Towards a Just World Society: African Perspectives and Strategies. (planning grant)

> **Bairoch, Paul & Batou, Jean** (Geneva). 1994

Indicators of the Vitality of Nations - Europe, the United States and Japan in the Twentieth Century.

> **Bellucci, Paolo** (Roma). 1990

Foreign Aid and Foreign Policy: A Test of Alternative Models of Western Countries' Allocation of Bilateral Aid.

> **Bernauer, Thomas** (Zürich). 1997

Vom Territorialstaat zum virtuellen Staat? Globalisierungsprozesse und Grundstrukturen der Weltgesellschaft.

→ [Abstract](#)

> **Blaschke, Jochen** (Berlin). 2000

Zwischen Resignation und Aggression: von der Immigranten-Community zur Diaspora.

→ [Abstract](#)

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> **Boli, John** (Atlanta, Georgia). 2000  
World Culture and Transnational Corporations.  
→ [Abstract](#)

> **Boswell, Terry** (Atlanta, GA, USA). 2003  
The Effects of World-Systemic Dynamics on the Patterns of Revolutions since 1500.

> **Boutenko, Irina A.** (Moscow) & Caldwell, Gary (Canada). 1997  
Misery of Social Thinkers in the Emerging Civil Society  
Standort: [Bibliothek des Soziologischen Institutes: Signatur WSF 8](#)  
→ [Abstract](#)

> **Churilov, Nikolaj** (Kiew). 1993  
Die Katastrophe von Tschernobyl, Weltgesellschaft und die Wirkung auf die Ukraine.

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## V Rereading the Archive

The archive motivates specific lectures and tracks marked in Table 2:

It starts from the present (and future probabilities) focused on the events of pandemic crisis (I) and/or the return of earth to world society (II). A first advantage is the facility to find **red fields** in the knowledge landscape of conferences and of the individual projects. What are the insights, which can trigger the search for hypotheses, frames for theorizing or observing such not yet crystallized topics? What is the qualitative difference of such fields to actual or coming events, episodes and development. Evidently the space for choosing such tracks is free and open for users and visitors of the archive, but we propose such routes through the archive as a landscape of science and knowledge.

## VI Concept and scenario of presentation

### 1 Concept and design (See table 2 – A3)

- The conference and the open projects present a knowledge landscape: it contains the fields of readings – tracks through them illustrate lineages from past to present as well as continuities or zero fields.
- The Archive offers the individual projects and conferences along the time axis from present to the past in an attractive design – titles, short narratives, illustrations (for instance the episodes).
- The Archive allows the reading of **red fields**
- relationships of A and B to episodes
- relationships of conferences to open projects A <-> B (vice versa)
- elaboration of a scenario including conference(s) and meetings
- virtual: knowledge landscape as an interactive play
- physical: design of a landscape, leading through episodes, conferences and the individual projects
- location (see places explored in a paper)

### 2 Materials available

- Posters for conferences – available
- Posters for the episodes – to be produced
- Selection of specific fields and “light-towers”:
  - Awards
  - Books

### 3 Events

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– Opening event, programme for specific audiences

### **Appendix A: continuing the event analysis as pilot study**

After the conference 2007 the idea of event-based studies started to create a world observatory. The events have been collected from the BBC daily world news, analysed as words of clauses and texts, i.e. narratives. The interpretations have been sketched in focus-papers, in Bulletins and stimulated reflections on World Society.

World observatory: [https://culturprospectiv.ch/de/world\\_observatory](https://culturprospectiv.ch/de/world_observatory)

Bulletin Januar 12: [https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/\\_media/bulletin\\_31\\_1\\_12.pdf](https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/_media/bulletin_31_1_12.pdf)

Bulletin April 12: [https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/\\_media/bulletin\\_april\\_2012.pdf](https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/_media/bulletin_april_2012.pdf)

Bulletin May 12: [https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/\\_media/bulletin\\_may\\_2012.pdf](https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/_media/bulletin_may_2012.pdf)

Two focus papers analyse the image of world society and of European society applying the event-analysis:

World Society: [https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/\\_media/de:wo\\_world\\_09\\_09.pdf](https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/_media/de:wo_world_09_09.pdf)

Image of Europe: [https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/\\_media/de:wo\\_euro\\_im\\_i.pdf](https://www.culturprospectiv.ch/_media/de:wo_euro_im_i.pdf)

### **Description of streams**

*I – One world and floodlight:* The liberal and market economy, the world as “flat arenas”, remain the primary force and a main vector shaping global development. It determinates the other frames and streams: Domesticating World, the sharing of power, its impact on borders and on the definition of Own World, on the role of Civil World, the implementation of civil values, and the effects on Negotiating World, the games of transnational discourses and common actions among the various players.

*II – Chaos and emergency light:* The emanation of One World is fading; the global economy, its flat arenas, generate crises, are confusing, global governance is collapsing. The other frames and streams of events are disturbed. What does mean „civil“ under such conditions? Own values and identities are challenged by such changes since the trust to global frames of economy or society has weakened. Negotiations are palavers, skating exhibitions of former or new players. The trust to the global governance makes place to the emergency light: orientation and acting within the limited but smaller arenas facilitating actions.

*III – Whirls and divergence (divergent orientations):* The common frames of world society are replaced by antidromic streams, orientations and actions, which become autonomous and particular. Own worlds claim the frame for perceiving and treating the economic, societal and cultural issues. The self-consciousness of the various regions and parts of world society increase and are explicitly articulated. Negotiations are self-reliant, the delegation of power to transnational actors and mega-projects is reduced or rejected. The concept and decision of what does mean a civil, negotiating or domesticating order is anchored in the own direction on local, national and transnational regional levels.

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**IV – Development and convergence (convergent roads):** The critical trends of the planetary society and of its parts need the facilities of negotiating power: it overcomes the particular power of the singular players and contributes to the survival of the earth and its societal body as a community, of local economies as well as of the global one. The concept and stream of events rooted in the own worlds converge: the shape of a civil society, of sharing the power, the various spotlights are overlapping and create a plural order of the global society basing on the capacity of compromises, that means negotiations.

**Description of Frames.** World Observatory registers the daily stream of events and interprets them as trends and dynamics in six frames of evolution – the figures of the thinkers are

**One World:** trends shape the international society as one world, the frame Smith.

**Civil World:** trends shape the international society as civil society, the frame Kant.

**Domesticated World:** trends shape the international society as order based on power, the frame Hobbes.

**Negotiated World:** trends shape the international society as a communitarian body, a society close to nature, abled to communicate and negotiate, the frame of Rousseau.

**Own World:** trends shape the international society as coexistence of nations, imperia and regions based on identities and the own traditions, the frame of Leontjew.

**Cassandra:** trends lead the international society towards unsolvable problems, catastrophes; it is the frame Cassandra (threatened world).

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