

ANTH/SOCI 398-B, (De)Globalization & the Nation
Max Forte, Concordia University
Reading Questions for Session 3

T.H. Eriksen, "Chapter 2. Acceleration"

1. Note the overlap between concepts of "disembedding," "deterritorialization," "time-space compression," and "acceleration".
2. What is the connection between "acceleration" and globalization?
3. Why does Eriksen suggest that the study of technological acceleration is insufficient for understanding and explaining the contemporary world?
4. What is particularly significant about the invention of the telegraph?
5. Is the world becoming "flatter"?
6. Though information and communication is present in every human society that has ever existed, why do some think that in the present we are witnessing an "information society"? What is particularly distinctive about the present?
7. What are the impacts of "acceleration" on thought, public discourse, journalism, and media participation?
8. Note the instances throughout Eriksen's chapter where he shows globalization to be not quite so global as some might have imagined.
9. Does "slowness" still exist?
10. In Urry's distinction between "glacial" and "instantaneous" time, what are the examples of activities that transpire in instantaneous time?
11. Note the list of contrasting qualities emerging from the transition from industrial to globalized information society.
12. Did you see in this chapter any suggested or implied recognition of the foundations laid in the 19th-century for the transformations bringing about contemporary globalization?

Anna Tsing, "The Global Situation"

Note: Tsing's article is written in language that will be challenging to most readers (undergraduate or not). See if you can salvage any of the following points from the article, which makes some important points even if in dense language.

1. What are the qualities of Tsing's way of introducing "flows" that resembles what Eriksen's chapter described in terms of instantaneous time, fast thinking, and flickering fragmentation?
2. Tsing, like Eriksen, points to the parallels between *modernization* and *globalization*. Please note the parallels she mentions.
3. What does Tsing mean by "globalism"?
4. Why is there "enthusiasm" for globalization?
5. Does Tsing also speak about acceleration? Hint: look for mentions of "speed".
6. How have photographic images of the globe itself become significant?
7. How are NGOs important, specifically with reference to states?

8. According to Tsing, when did “globalization” as a term become prominent, and what did the concept tend to signify?
9. Note the heavy layers of other meanings attached to “globalization”.
10. What are the three main features that have attracted support for globalization?
11. What aims can be satisfied by asserting the *newness* of globalization?
12. What are some of the problems arising from proclamations of the “defeat” of “the nation”?
13. How are “networks” valued by diverse globalists? Instead of a “network,” what other kinds of relationships can be people establish with each other?
14. How does “circulation” differ from “penetration,” and how are both problematic ways of understanding the world?
15. How has “circulation” become attractive to a variety of different political/economic projects?
16. What is Tsing’s main criticism of the focus on *flows* themselves?
17. In Tsing’s view, are most anthropologists likely to envision the global future as one of cultural homogenization?
18. What is Tsing’s argument about globalization? Is it that it doesn’t exist? That it is not new? Or is it that there many different globalizing trajectories, not all of which are consistent with one another?