

Perspectives on Geographical Marginality

Volume 2

Series editors

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This book series *Perspectives on Geographical Marginality* comprehensively overviews research, on areas and communities impacted by processes of marginalization as a result of globalization, economic, environmental, political and social change. This series seeks to discuss and determine what is geographical marginality by inviting leading international experts to publish theoretical and applied work. It also seeks to rigorously debate the degree to which local areas and communities are responding to these process of change and with what success.

The series stems from the International Geographical Union's (IGU), 'Commission on Globalization, Marginalization, and Regional and Local Response' (C12.29). As is suggested by its name, the commission researches the problem of geographical marginality offering a leading forum from which this series will be led. Marginality cannot be defined without putting it into a certain perspective: economic, political and social (including cultural). Marginality has to be clearly distinguished from peripherality. Marginal areas may be a part of periphery or even the centre, but "cannot really be attributed to them".

Proposed themes which will be covered include:

- Mountainous regions and globalization;
- Regional development and policy/or: Globalization and its impact on local and regional development;
- Theory of marginalization;
- Transformation of rural areas from the viewpoint of globalization and marginalization;
- Drivers of marginalization in border and peripheral areas.

This present book provides an overview of wide range of examples of societies fighting with poverty, social inequity and marginalization from many different viewpoints. It will be especially interesting for those who want to gain a better insight into situation and position of ethnic groups living in harsh mountainous conditions in Himalaya. Livelihood problems of this part of the world, outmigration and environmental threats are further interesting topics. Examples from other parts of the world such as from Kyrgyzstan, Israel, Switzerland and Finland provide an opportunity to compare and to see how marginality and marginalization differs around the world, considering the conditions, the scale and the angle of observation.

More information about this series at <http://www.springer.com/series/15046>

Raghubir Chand · Etienne Nel · Stanko Pelc
Editors

Societies, Social Inequalities and Marginalization

Marginal Regions in the 21st Century

 Springer

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Preface

In a world characterized by persistent and increasing socio-spatial unevenness and inequality, concerns about geographical marginalization are all the more concerning and need to be effectively understood in order to develop appropriate and sustainable responses. Rather than living in a world of decreasing differences, sadly we live in a time and space, where differences and inequalities appear to be growing and where concerns over the marginalization of people and places have yet to be fully understood and addressed.

International research challenges us to rethink the concepts of differences between and within nations and societies. There is abundant evidence, from around the world, that while levels of extreme poverty appear to have been reduced, inequality levels within most societies are increasing. This reflects both the inability of all people to participate fully and to the same degree in the dominant economic system and complex overlays of social exclusion, discrimination, displacement and conflict which sadly remain features of the world in the twenty-first century.

It is in this spirit that this book series seeks to extend our collective human understanding of what marginalization is and how it impacts on people and places, from both evidential and theoretical perspectives. Over time, the gathered evidence will, hopefully, facilitate the better informed analysis and understanding of what marginality and marginalization are and how it might be responded to.

This, the second book in the series ‘Perspectives of Geographical Marginality’, seeks to extend the academic debate on these issues through a particular focus on, as the title suggests, societies, social inequalities and marginalization. This book is a continuation of themes explored in the first volume. The majority of its chapters have also been prepared from papers presented at the conference of the International Geographical Union’s (IGU) Commission on Marginalization, Globalization and Regional and Local Responses C08.27 held in Nainital, India, from 1 May to 9 May 2011, jointly organized by the IGU’s Commission and the Department of Geography, DSB Campus, Kumaun University, Nainital, India. The conference theme was ‘Local and Regional Responses to Globalization in the Mountains and Marginal areas of the World’.

The concept of marginalization has been applied in a broad variety of disciplines and perspectives and remained the focus of academic debates. In the last two centuries, marginality was perceived as a subject of economic and social discrimination, physical remoteness and political exclusion, overburdened by colonial suppression both in developing and in developed countries. Marginality became a relevant topic of geographical research and was viewed as a response to the deep-seated socio-economic and political changes and increasing complexities created by the on-going process of globalization in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Marginal regions are undergoing structural and demographic changes with increasing social insecurity and cultural clashes depicting interconnected positive and negative consequences affecting individuals in different kinds of marginal societies in the twenty-first century.

Nainital, India
Dunedin, New Zealand
Koper-Capodistria, Slovenia

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