



## After the Gold Rush: Economic Crisis and Consequences FINAL CALL FOR PAPERS

**Time:** May 27th-28th, 2010

**Place:** Faculty of Social and Human Sciences, University of Iceland, Reykjavík

**Deadline for submission of abstracts:** February 25th, 2010. All abstracts will be peer-reviewed and authors of accepted abstracts notified no later than 3 weeks after submission. Please submit an abstract (200 words) proposal by following the procedure outlined at: [http://www.hi.is/en/after the gold rush](http://www.hi.is/en/after_the_gold_rush)

### Keynote speakers:

Fantu Cheru, Professor Emeritus and Research Director, the Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden

Karin Ho, Associate Professor of Anthropology, the University of Minnesota, US

Kathryn L. Norsworthy, Professor of Counseling Psychology, Rollins College in Florida, US

Stefán Ólafsson, Professor of Sociology, University of Iceland

The aim of the conference *After the Gold Rush: Economic Crisis and Consequences* is to explore various aspects of the current global economic crisis from a broad social science perspective.

Iceland is an ideal location to host a social science conference addressing these historic events, which are still unfolding. Many observers point to Iceland as the first victim of this world wide crisis and the nation worst hit. In 2008 the country experienced a bank system collapse in the wake of the global crisis unprecedented since the Great Depression in the 1930s, and is likely to be suffering the consequences of this for many years.

Among the relevant questions that will be addressed at the conference are the following:

- How is the image of easy money and naturally gifted money makers created and how do societies deal with the aftermath of a gold rush? Is the present crisis an inevitable part of world capitalism? Or is it the result of faulty policies, a lack of regulation, or simply the mistakes of certain reckless individuals?
- How will the crisis effect poverty levels, unemployment rates, and welfare state policies? How are young people, immigrant communities, race relations, the gendered division of labour, and ethnic minorities influenced? How do we enhance people's skills at adapting and managing their careers and career shifts in such a time of uncertainty?
- What are the effects of the crisis on national identities and the stories different nation states and groups like to tell about themselves? How is the crisis reflected in the media, literature, music, fashion, art, and entertainment?
- In what way will the crisis influence international relations? Has the crisis relevance for areas in conflict or those in the process of being rebuilt? How has the crisis affected conceptions of "the international community" and global institutions?
- How has the social science community responded to this sudden challenge to their field of study? How can we contribute to the prevention of such crisis happening again, to the prediction of future problems, and/or constructive ways of dealing with such crisis now and in the future?

The conference will emphasize both global and local aspects of the crisis, as well as their intersection. Furthermore, we will be asking how the current crisis compares historically with other such events, and how different crises connect to each other.

We ask scholars to explore these and other related questions in their papers, or intersections of these diverse themes. We also welcome empirical descriptions, comparative studies, theoretical analysis and case studies addressing issues and problems related to the world crisis and its impact, either locally or on a global scale.

Travel and accommodation must be funded and arranged individually. Please find further information about the conference fee, registration and the conference programme at: <http://vefsetur.hi.is/afterthegoldrush/>

For all practical information please contact: <http://www.gestamottakan.is/en/>

**Conference Committee:**

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