At the end of this session, you should be able to understand

- The concept of the “global city” and the global gender inequality
- The polarization of an international elite of highly educated professionals AND of low-paid immigrant service workers in global cities
- Global city trends: informalization, flexibilization (sweatshops), downgrading of manufacturing
- The specific role of migrant women in the service sector of global cities as nannies, maids, sex workers, waitresses, mail-order brides……
- The global “survival circuits” that lead to migration and trafficking of women from debt and poverty-stricken Third World countries to the First World (=an indirect result of SAP policies)

- Global Cities
- Globalization depends on nodal centers where information is collected and decisions made
- These centers drive the expansion of capitalist globalization
- These are the places that benefit most from the development of globalization
- The centers reflect all contradictions of the global age

The Global Air Transportation Network (map)

Roster of World Cities (after Beaverstock, Taylor & Smith)

- Two ways of looking at the urban hierarchy
  - demography → megacities
  - urban system → world cities
- Most world city theorists agree on 3 cities at the top of the hierarchy:
  - New York
  - London
  - Tokyo
- Theorists have not agreed on a way to rank world cities below the top, however there are several alternatives:
  - cosmopolitanism: hard to define or quantify (1960s work of Peter Hall)
  - role in international division of labor & MNCs: a bit clearer (1980s work of John Friedmann)
  - predominance of producer services: easy to measure, serves as a good proxy for what we are looking for (1990s work of Saskia Sassen)
  - scale of financial sphere of involvement (1990s work of Howard Reed)
- Alpha, Beta, and Gamma World Cities measure and compare the global dominance of cities in regard to:
  - accounting
  - advertising
How have women experienced globalization?
- According to the UNIFEM Report, *Progress of the World’s Women 2000, June 2000*, the picture is mixed and the inequality among women themselves has increased greatly
- Globalization has brought more women into the labor force
- At the same time, it has intensified the existing inequalities and insecurities of women in many parts of the world due to the increase of the informal economy
- For educated women, it has meant new and better paying jobs and opportunities in the formal economy that had not existed before
- Women continue to provide about 70 percent of the unpaid time spent on care for family members

Income and Wage Gap
A wage gap exists in all countries, the variation is great by sector:
- average female wage about 80 per cent of the male
- in manufacturing the female wage is only 60 per cent of male
- in finance, insurance, and real estate and business services the female wage exceeds the male wages
- personal services – female wages are one-sixth less than in manufacturing, and 60 per cent less than in finance
- Studies from Hong Kong and Singapore show that high-wage earning women transfer their reproductive burdens to paid domestic servants, in particularly migrants from other countries in the region (Heyzer, 1994).

Global Poverty & Women
- conditions of women’s lives characterized by poverty and hunger
- Women comprise two-thirds of the world’s illiterate
- Although women are 50% of population, they own only 1% of world’s property and 10% of world’s income
- even a little education for women pays dividends in every index of social progress and development.

The New Geography of Power (Saskia Sassen)
- The more the economy is being decentralized, the more complex and centralized become the economic activities both internationally and within corporations.
- By the end of 1997, 25 cities controlled 83 percent of the world’s equities and accounted for roughly half of the global market capitalization (around $20.9 trillion)
- London, New York, and Tokyo combine to hold a third of the world’s institutional equities and account for 58 percent of the global foreign exchange market
- Globalization is clearly an unfinished business, a work in progress that can be shaped and steered by human interventions and values of equality, poverty reduction, and social justice (Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director of UNIFEM)