

Michael Burawoy

Prof. Michael Burawoy is an internationally renowned sociologist with an extraordinary research career, currently teaching sociology at UC Berkeley. He is known for his participant observation and ethnographic research in industrial sociology; developing the extended case method and the related notion of global ethnography; the study of both postsocialism and postcolonialism; and more recently his advocacy of public sociology. Michael Burawoy served as president of the American Sociological Association (2003-4), vice-president of the International Sociological Association (2006-2010) and its president (2010-2014), and is the chair of the Berkeley Faculty Association. During his ISA presidency he became the founding editor of the ISA magazine *Global Dialogue*, which embodies the spirit of public sociology.



The renowned sociologist visited Bulgaria for the first time in 2013 for a series of four lectures: *The Challenges to Global Sociology* (at the Bulgarian Academy of Science); *What is the Fate of Marxism after Communism?* (at Social Center Haspel); *Social Movements in a Neoliberal Age* (at the New Bulgarian University) and *Dilemmas to Public Sociology* (at Sofia University).

At his first talk in Bulgaria, hosted by the Bulgarian Academy of Science's Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge Prof. Burawoy was awarded with the ribbon of honor by Prof. Rumiana Stoilova, serving as the Institute's director at the time.



Michael Burawoy's extensive research experience as an ethnographer of the Global, spanning from postcolonial Zambia, the US and (post)socialist Eastern Europe, allowed him to develop his influential *extended case method* in *Global Ethnography: Forces, Connections, and Imaginations in a Postmodern World*, a book co-authored with his students and published in 2000, as well as in his 2009 *The Extended Case Method*. The extended case method relies on participant observation and analysis "from below" as tools for interpreting localised everyday experiences in their historical, extralocal, and indeed global contexts. Michael Burawoy also played a pivotal role in the founding of sociological studies of post-socialist transformations. Influential in this respect is *Uncertain Transition: Ethnographies of Change in the PostSocialist World*, a book he co-authored with Catherine Verdery and published in 1998, where they present an alternative to the more dominant transitological understanding of post-1989 change in Eastern Europe.

Michael Burawoy became a champion of public sociology, a sociology that is in dialogue with publics outside academia. Burawoy does not deny the need for other types of sociological knowledge, and calls for a productive dialogue both within sociology, between public, policy (for the purposes of private clients), scientific (for and by sociologists) and critical (questioning the conditions and effects of scientific concepts) sociologies, and with outside audiences via public sociology. Public sociology is an attempt to render the discipline relevant in the contemporary world, when social science cannot afford to be enclosed within the walls of academia. It also aims to provide a grammar for the strengthening of civil society. As Burawoy himself sometimes says, he used to study the world in order to change sociology and is now studying sociology in order to change the world.