

ISA bulletin 58-59

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XIII World Congress
of Sociology

Annual Meetings of the ISA
Executive Committee

The Present and Future
Financial Situation of the ISA
by Jürgen Hartmann

Research Council Meeting
in Oñati

Call for Projects and Papers

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DE SOCIOLOGIE**

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Winter 1992

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XIII WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY

July 18-23, 1994, Bielefeld, Germany

XIII World Congress of Sociology will be held at the University of Bielefeld in Germany, on July 18th through 23rd, 1994.

Members of the *Program Committee* for the XIII World Congress of Sociology are:

Chair: Neil Smelser, University of California, Berkeley, USA

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At the first constitutional meeting of the Program Committee the official theme of the Congress has been chosen: *Contested Boundaries and Shifting Solidarities*. (See following pages for Neil Smelser's statement on the theme).



The Scientific Program of the Congress will include:

- Two Plenary Sessions
 - Presidential Opening Session to be organized by the ISA President, T.K. Oommen, on Monday, 18 July, at 9:30-12:30;
 - Closing Session to be organized by the ISA Vice-President, Chair of the Program Committee, Neil Smelser, on Saturday, 23 July, at 9:30-12:30.

- Six Symposia running parallel in the mornings, with four sessions, one each morning for four days, Tuesday through Friday (July 19-22) at 9:30-12:30.

- Research Committees' sessions Research Committees can organize two-hour sessions (including joint sessions and business meeting) every day from

Monday through Saturday at 14:00-16:00, 16:30-18:30, and 19:00-21:00.

- Working Groups' sessions will have the same time available as the Research Committees.

- Thematic Groups' sessions will be granted maximum of 5 sessions to be held in the

afternoons from Monday through Saturday, July 18-23.

- Ad Hoc Sessions and SSO Sessions (special sessions by international organizations affiliated with the ISA) will be granted maximum 2 sessions to be held in the evening at 19:00-21:00 from Monday through Friday, July 18-22.

Academic Sessions Table

1994	9:30-12:30	14:00-16:00	16:30-18:30	19:00-21:00
Monday 18 July	Opening and Presidential Session	RC, WG TG	RC, WG TG	RC, WG AD HOC SSO
Tuesday 19 July	Symposia	RC, WG TG	RC, WG TG	RC, WG AD HOC SSO
Wednesday 20 July	Symposia	RC, WG TG	RC, WG TG	RC, WG AD HOC SSO
Thursday 21 July	Symposia	RC, WG TG	RC, WG TG	RC, WG AD HOC SSO
Friday 22 July	Symposia	RC, WG TG	RC, WG TG	RC, WG AD HOC SSO
Saturday 23 July	Closing Plenary Session	RC, WG TG	RC, WG TG	RC, WG

Timetable of the ISA Administrative Meetings

1994	9:30-12:30	14:00-16:00	16:30-18:30	19:00-21:00
Saturday 16 July			Research Council 1st meeting	
Sunday 17 July	Research Council 2nd meeting: elections		ISA Council 1st meeting	Nominating Cttee of ISA Council
Monday 18 July				
Tuesday 19 July	Nominating Cttee of ISA Council			ISA Council 2nd meeting elections
Wednesday 20 July				
Thursday 21 July				Dinner for old & New Executive
Friday 22 July				
Saturday 23 July		ISA Council 3rd meeting		

How to present a paper?

Everyone interested in presenting a paper should contact directly a chair of a session of her/his choice.

Session topic and addresses of session organizers will be published in the *ISA Bulletin* 59 (Spring 1993).

Procedure for soliciting Ad Hoc and SSO sessions

To qualify for a place in the program, Ad Hoc Sessions and SSO Sessions (international organizations affiliated with the ISA), must consist of (a) a substantial number of sociologists, (b) from several countries, (c) who have already engaged in some

collaboration, and (d) whose special interest does not properly fit within the field of an established ISA Research Committee, Working Group or Thematic Group.

Maximum of 2 sessions (two hours each) may be requested to be held in the evening at 19:00-21:00, from July 18, 1994 (Monday) through July 22, 1994 (Friday).

Applications for such sessions should be received by **March 31, 1993** at the ISA Secretariat.

CONTESTED BOUNDARIES AND SHIFTING SOLIDARITIES

by Neil Smelser, ISA Vice-President, Chair of the Program Committee

The theme for the XIII World Congress of Sociology to be held in Bielefeld in July 1994, is **Contested Boundaries and Shifting Solidarities**. The title is meant to encapsulate the vast sea of uncertainty and change that has engulfed the world in the last decade of the twentieth century and has affected virtually all of its societies.

A convenient starting-point for the depicting the world situation is to consider the status of the nation-state. Once commonly supposed to be the natural and sovereign focus of the loyalty and solidarity of its citizens, this idea of the state has recently been challenged with respect to all of these constituent elements. The international boundaries of the state have become permeable through the greater globalization of production, trade, finance, and culture, with a resultant loss of control of all states over their own fortunes. The sovereignty of states has been further compromised through shifting patterns of regional political federations and alliances. At the sub-national level, the state has found itself challenged by the efflorescence and revitalization of solidary groupings with multiple bases—regional, linguistic, religious, ethnic, gender, and life-style—as well as a bewildering array of novel social movements that generate their own solidarities. All of these compete with the state for the loyalties of peoples and sometimes for jurisdiction

over territory. In a word, the contemporary state has been pressured from both above and below by contested boundaries and shifting solidarities.

The six themes of the conference take up different facets of the many-faceted general theme. *Symposium I* (see below for the Symposia program) deals with the mutual interdependence of global and local forces—migration, urbanization, cosmopolitanism, traditionalism—in the current world scene. Session 2 takes the historical link between the development of market economics and democratic states and explores the ways in which this relationship has become problematical in the light of contemporary development in East and West, North and South. *Symposia III and IV* focus on different aspects of the situation. The first deals with old and new bases of solidarity and identity—specifically, ethnicity, nationality, religion, and gender—all of which cross class divisions which persist but which have receded and changed in form as societies have evolved from earlier phases of industrial development. Session 4 concentrates on the political manifestations of these shifting bases of sub-national solidarities and conflicts, raising questions about the new bases of citizenship and rights, political participation, and the contemporary significance of class-based and other social movements.



Finally, Sessions 5 and 6 also deal with boundaries, but in different, special senses. Sesboundaries (organism-environment, humanity-nature) have been blurred and in many cases menaced by the forces of technology, production, consumption, life-style, and inequality. The focus of Session 6 is on the boundaries of sociological knowledge itself. Its theme is on salient contemporary challenges to sociological thinking, emanating from such diverse sources as new epistemological formulations (for example, the radical relativism of postmodernism), feminist theory, developments in other academic disciplines and, not least, the changing character of the social world itself, which makes constant demands for alterations of basic sociological units of analysis, frameworks, and theories.

OUTLINE OF THE SYMPOSIA SESSIONS

SYMPOSIUM I: THE GLOBAL AND THE LOCAL

Coordinators: Alejandro Portes (USA) and Ayse Oncu (Turkey)

Session 1: Tradition, Modernity and Postmodernity

Session 2: The Reconstruction of the Local in a Global World

Session 3: International Migrations and Transnational Communities

Session 4: Global Cities and Local Communities

SYMPOSIUM II: MARKETS AND STATES

Coordinators: Alberto Martinelli (Italy) and Ken'ichi Tominaga (Japan)

Session 1: The Social Regulation of the Economy

Session 2: Democracies and Markets

Session 3: The State, the Citizen, and Social Welfare

Session 4: Public and Private Organizations and the Mass Media

SYMPOSIUM III: NEW AND OLD BASES OF SOLIDARITY AND IDENTITY

Coordinators: Neuma Aguiar (Brazil) and Olayiwola

Erinosho (Nigeria)

Session 1: Emergent Ethnicities

Session 2: Gender and Social Transformation

Session 3: Religion

Session 4: Nationality

SYMPOSIUM IV: THE POLITY AND THE DYNAMICS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Coordinators: Boaventura de Sousa Santos (Portugal) and Vladimir Yadov (Russia)

Session 1: The Reshaping of Class and Labor Movements

Session 2: Dimensions of Power: Participation and Alienation

Session 3: Democracy, Citizenship, and the Struggle for Rights

Session 4: Social Movements and Networks

SYMPOSIUM V: THE ENVIRONMENT, TECHNOLOGY, AND POWER

Coordinators: György Széll (Germany) and Daniel Bertaux (France)

Session 1: Human Dimensions and Global Environmental Change

Session 2: Population, Environment, and Sustainable Livelihood

Session 3: The Appropriation of Emerging Technology and its Consequences

Session 4: Production, Consumption, and Life Style

SYMPOSIUM VI: CHALLENGES TO SOCIOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

Coordinators: Veronica Stolte-Heiskanen (Finland) and Radhika Ramasubban (India)

Session 1: Feminist Challenges to Social Theory

Session 2: New Epistemological Challenges

Session 3: Social change and the Updating of Sociological Knowledge

Session 4: Challenges from other Disciplines

Note: Only invited papers will be presented at the Symposia sessions

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ISA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The annual meetings of the ISA Executive Committee and its sub-Committees (Publications, Membership, Finance, Research Coordinating and Program), were held in early June 1992 in Tampere, Finland. The meetings were generously hosted by the Department of Sociology and Social Psychology of the University of Tampere, and perfectly organized by Professor Veronica Stolte-Heiskanen and Marja Särkilahti. This issue of the *Bulletin* carries reports on matters discussed and decisions taken in Tampere.

On the occasion of the Executive Committee meeting, the Westermarck Society and the Department of Sociology and Social Psychology of the University of Tampere, organized an international conference on *Social Transformation and Cultural Identity* with a participation of a number of Finnish sociologists and executive officers of the ISA.



A number of the Executive Committee members visited afterwards the *St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences*. The visit, which was organized by the Russian Sociological Society, provided a unique opportunity to establish personal

contacts between Russian sociologists and executive officers of the ISA. We would like to thank for overwhelming hospitality offered by our Russian colleagues, and particularly by Professor Vladimir Yadov, Dr Galina Poltoranova and Dr Vladimir Pavlenko.



Felix Geyer - new member of the Executive Committee

After the death of Paolo Ammassari (September 1991), Executive Committee member, his place has been taken by Felix Geyer, who in the ISA Council elections held in Madrid, July 1990, was the candidate ranking highest in number of Council votes among those elected.



Felix Geyer has been active in in the ISA since 1980's when he acted first as the Secretary of the Research Committee on Alienation Theory and Research, then the Executive Secretary of the ISA (1983-1986), and since 1988 as the President of the Research Committee on Alienation Theory and Research. A tireless organizer, Felix has become well known to the ISA members, particularly to those who participated in the XI World Congress of Sociology.

Felix Geyer studied sociology at the University of Amsterdam (1954-1961). His doctoral thesis

dealt with applicability of general systems theory to alienation theory; since 1968 he has been working at the Methodology Division of the Netherlands Universities' Institute for Coordination of Research in Social Sciences (SISWO) in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

He has served on boards of several sociological institutions, himself being the organizer of various conferences and the author of numerous publications on theories of alienation, sociocybernetics, and general systems theory.

Collective members from new independent states

A decision was taken by the Executive Committee that sociological associations of new independent states are members category «A» (national associations) of the ISA. So far, following associations applied for membership and were accepted subject to receipt of membership dues:

1. From the former Soviet Union upon dissolution of the Soviet Sociological Society:

- Armenian Sociological Association
- Estonian Academic Union of Sociologists
- Latvian Sociological Society
- Lithuanian Sociological Society
- Russian Sociological Society

2. From former Yugoslavia:

- Croatian Sociological Association

Modifications of Research Committees

On the recommendation of the Research Coordinating Committee, the Executive Committee approved:

- to modify the title of the Research Committee 23 on Sociology of Science into *Sociology of Science and Technology*;
- to allow the Thematic Group 02 on Environment and Society to merge with the Research Committee 24 on Social Ecology to be called now *Environment and Society*;

Recognition of Research Committee on Clinical Sociology

The Working Group 01 on *Clinical Sociology* was promoted to the status of a Research Committee. Current board members of this new Research Committee (RC 46) are:

President: Jan Marie Fritz (254 Serena Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92260, USA)

Vice-Presidents: Robert Sevigny (Canada), Vincent de Gaulejac (France)

Secretary: Gilles Houle (Canada)

Members: Rosinha Machado Carrion (Brazil), Eugene Enriquez (France), Francis Loicq (Belgium), Klimis Navridis (Greece), Phil Robbinette (USA), W. David Watts (USA)



T HE PRESENT AND FUTURE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE ISA

by Jürgen Hartmann, Chairman of the
Financial Committee

As the newly appointed Chairman of the Financial Committee, I would like to address the present and future financial situation of the ISA.

When the ISA was founded in 1949, it was set up as an organization of national member association representing nations throughout the world in UN-style. The main activity of the Association was to organize a World Congress every fourth year. The ISA Secretariat was run, on a voluntary basis, by a colleague with some administrative resources in his/her University. This system required a minimum of financial support from the ISA itself and almost totally relied on the in-kind subsidy from the respective University or a national funding organization.



The growth of the ISA into an individual membership organization - with presently almost 50 research committees as the back-bone of its activities - entailed the necessity of

establishing a professionally run Secretariat with permanent staff headed by the Executive Secretary. Ever since the transfer of the Secretariat to Madrid in 1987, Izabela Barlinska has very efficiently fulfilled the tasks of the Executive Secretary and the Secretariat has been able to cope with rising demands from a growing membership and an ever increasing number of Committees. However, this new form of organizing our work required a higher level of cash input in order to finance the salaries of the permanent staff, and to cover the rising costs for the information of a larger membership.

As the fees of collective members were kept on a very low level, despite the depreciation of the US dollar, they contribute less than 10% of the annual ISA budget in 1992. Likewise, individual dues constitute a mere 11% of the budget, whereas the current contribution of the Spanish government covers half of ISA's budget.

In view of the facts just outlined, I think it is necessary to reorganize our Statutes, not least because this will also have financial implications. Presently, the collective members, with a lower contribution to the budget, are the only group sending representatives to the ISA Council as the governing board of ISA, while the individual members, contributing a larger share, are not represented. Moreover, changes in the scientific activi-

ties of the ISA and the realities of the 1990's require a revision of our Statutes.

Given the changes within and outside our organization, it seems more and more difficult to obtain larger financial contributions from governmental or other sources to run the Secretariat of the ISA in a particular country. Governments or national research funds might be willing to put up money for international research activities of various kinds, but argue that the Secretariat should be financed by the members of the Association.

Even if this should be contraproductive to our work, I have to admit that I fully support this view. It is not reasonable that an outside organization should subsidize the work of a Secretariat set up to serve the administrative needs of the membership. Members of any association should be willing to pay for the benefits of membership and the operational costs of the organization and not ask somebody else to finance their personal interests.

This argument gained general support at the meeting of the Research Council held in Oñati, April 1992, and at the Executive Committee meeting held in Tampere last June. As a consequence, and in order to keep the ISA going after the next World Congress in 1994, **we therefore propose a major change in the membership fees of collective and individual members of the ISA.**

Proposed Individual Membership Dues

Membership Category		Obligatory Membership Fee	Subscription to:	
			International Sociology	Current Sociology
Supporting member	4 years	\$ 400	\$ 80	\$ 80
Regular member	4 years	\$ 250	included	\$ 80
	4 years	\$ 200	\$ 80	\$ 80
Discount (students and members in non-OECD countries)	4 years	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 80

Proposed Collective Membership Fees

- minimum US\$ 150, maximum US\$ 5.000 (optional)
- either 1% of an annual budget or US\$ 1 per member per annum

Dues for regular member amount to USD 50/year, or even less if you include the subscription for *International Sociology*. Compare this amount with the contribution to your national sociological association!

For all colleagues from non OECD-countries we suggest USD 20/year, even though a more individual evaluation of their financial situation would be preferable. However, at present it is not feasible to collect membership dues on the basis of the individual income levels. We can only ask colleagues from those countries, whose earnings are on the level of OECD-countries, to apply those rates voluntarily.

For all collective members, we propose ISA fees that are either related to the established budget of the collective member, or USD 1 per member in the organization per annum. Though it was proposed to give collective members votes in relation to their membership, I do not support this idea. One argument is the difficulty to establish membership lists based on identical definitions in all countries; the other is the incongruence with the proposal of the

Statutes Committee to constitute an ISA Assembly consisting of about the same number of representatives of collective members, and of individual members, to be nominated via the Research Committees.

Hopefully, a change in the Statutes and the dues structure will enable the ISA to finance a large part of its expenses by internal contributions. According to my estimates, the income deriving from membership dues will still not cover the expenses. Therefore, I would like to suggest some other possibilities for financing our activities.

Considering the number of groups that would like to become Research Committees of ISA, the Association is very attractive for many individual researchers and groups interested in international sociological research. Yet, for several reasons large number of members in the Research Committees are not members of the ISA. Being trained as psychologists, economists or any other academic discipline some do not want to join a sociological association and therefore refrain from membership, others simply avoid membership dues as they

can participate in the meetings anyway as free-riders.

According to the rules of any voluntary association, I think it is reasonable as a rule, that activities of the ISA like Congresses, Research Committee meetings, research projects, and publications should be open to members only. Just compare with a golf club! Any non-member accepted to the activities of the club is obliged to pay an extra contribution (green-fee) to cover the costs of the golf club. The same is for the use of the name of the ISA in national or international research activities which only should be allowed to be used by member organizations in good standing.

This procedure is already practiced at the ISA World Congress, but should be applied at all meetings or activities organized under the umbrella of the ISA. **I suggest that non-members of ISA pay an extra fee of USD 20 for each activity they are participating in.** The organizer of the activity should transfer 75% of that income to the ISA Secretariat, while the rest may be used for the Research Committee. Non-members should be informed about

the conditions of membership in the ISA at each activity and be allowed to choose a four year membership instead of paying extra fees for the activity.

The last item I want to bring to your attention are the complicated and costly ways of paying membership dues currently used by the ISA and the Research Committees. Bank charges sometimes are eating up half of the contributions, if they are sent by personal cheques. As the money transfer system is still dominantly national, **we should try to collect all dues at the same time of the World Congress together with congress registration fees.** In addition, I will try to introduce payments by credit card systems as soon as possible.

Another problem are the dues of the individual Research Committees. Following a proposal of my predecessor, Wilfrid Dumon, **I would like to urge the Research Committees to entrust the ISA Secretariat with the collection of membership dues for the Research Committee.** This would also help to avoid disputes about the status of members in one or several Research Committees. Each Committee could ask the Secretariat to collect the amount fixed as RC membership due for four years. We could start this combined collection of dues on a voluntary basis. Thus RC's that strongly object could continue collecting their fees themselves with the well known

complications regarding bank charges and disputed status in membership.

I am sorry to bother you with all this non-scientific, but nevertheless important administrative matters, but it is my firm belief that without a viable financial basis, the ISA will not be able to survive the next decade and new solutions will then be found to organize sociologists around the world.

If you have any comments or suggestion, please contact me:

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T HE RESEARCH COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND BUSINESS MEETING A SUBJECTIVE ACCOUNT

Oñati, Spain, 6-9 April, 1992

by Daniel Bertaux, Chair, Research Council

The Research Council Conference on the Market Situation of Socio- logical Research and Expertise

It is a well-established custom in the ISA that between two World Congresses, the Chair of the Research Council organizes a meeting of the Research Committees' delegates. The real purpose of this business meeting is obviously the meeting itself: people get to know each other better and, in the best cases, an



aggregation of individuals begins to transform itself into a community with shared perceptions, orientations, and objectives. Without such moments any organization would remain a bureaucracy, with no common spirit,

no other purpose than meaningless self-perpetuation.

The problem is, of course, that ISA resources are limited; in order to organize such meetings we have to find sponsors.

and I had been told not to spend ISA money.

One of the crucial issues was therefore to find a good topic for the research conference. It had to be a *thème transversal*, a topic



The usual way to solve this riddle is to find a topic around which a conference is organized: each delegate can then ask her/his own institution for a plane ticket.

In the case of the 1992 meeting, hotel expenses also had to be covered individually, since like previous Research Council meetings, no institutional hosts could be found to cover them. The previous ISA barter practice which was to get invitations from academics of sciences in communist countries in exchange of copies of our journals and books, was no longer valid;

on which every Research Committee could hook its own experiences and knowledge. After ten years of reaganomics there were growing doubts about the usefulness of our discipline, hints at growing difficulties for getting research funds for sociological projects, and rumors about «the end of sociology». Why not look at it squarely? Why not ask every Research Committee to tell others how well or how badly its members were faring in their own field.

I circulated the idea among members of the Research Coordinating Committee, who liked



SA PUBLICATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

International Sociological Association/ISA

CURRENT SOCIOLOGY

Association Internationale de Sociologie/ La sociologie contemporaine

Each issue of this unique journal is devoted to a comprehensive trend report on a topic of interest to the international community of sociologists. Authors review current trends and tendencies in all areas of sociological work - theories, methods, concepts, substantive research and national or regional developments. The aim is to review new developments, to discuss controversies, and to provide extensive bibliographies. From time to time, «Commentaries on Trend Reports» are published in subsequent issues of the journal.

Since its inception in 1952, CURRENT SOCIOLOGY has published Trend Reports by some of the world's leading sociologists, such as S.M. Miller's classic on Comparative Social Mobility (1960). More recently, the journal has covered topics of growing importance with the discipline such as the sociology of law, the sociology of the body, economic sociology and the sociology of legitimation.

Issues are published in French or English, but a text in one language is always accompanied by an extensive résumé in the other. CURRENT SOCIOLOGY is an official journal of the International Sociological Association. Its main aim is to review international developments in the discipline and to provide a forum which professional sociologists from all countries can communicate with the widest group of colleagues.

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Members of the ISA will receive their copies of CURRENT SOCIOLOGY at a discount, if pre-paid, from the ISA Secretariat (see ISA membership dues form).

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The Case Method in Sociology edited by JACQUES HAMEL

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sociological abstracts

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it and offered suggestions about how to develop it. Therefore, on 5 July, 1992, I wrote to all Presidents and Secretaries of Research Committees, asking them to prepare a report for the Conference in which they would tell us whether there still is a **demand** for **sociological** re-

ceiving echoes of difficulties the Research Committees had in assembling the relevant data, it became obvious that the only places where synthetic information could be found were those governmental agencies or large foundations which **were** actually financing sociological research.

search Committee to the next, sketches of an overall picture began to emerge. Basically, the demand for sociological research and expertise seems actually *quite stronger* than a few years earlier, and growing. But it seems also both more sophisticated and more action-oriented.

On the second day we turned tables and focused on the points of view of the funding agencies. Guido Martinotti, who chairs the European Science Foundation's Social Sciences Committee, developed a very articulate demonstration of the necessity of public funding to support long-term pathbreaking projects. Felice Levine, who is now with the American Sociological Association but has had a long experience in the National Science Foundation, gave a detailed and fascinating account of the views held within this institution. David Makinson, who works with Francine Fournier at the Social Science Division of the UNESCO, told us about the new projects of this Division. Alan Fox, working in the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, gave us statistics on the real career opportunities of social sciences graduates in this country. Marga Pröhl described the application-oriented ap-



search in their own field; which **institutions** carry this demand—governments, national or local, foundations, enterprises, unions, others—how big is this demand, whether it is growing or diminishing, or shifting in contents; whether sociologists follow these shifts; and so on. I asked for these reports to be as much based on statistics as possible, and as worldwide as possible, not limiting themselves to one country, even one as large as the United States themselves.

Of course it was a kind of impossible assignment for which - to put it worse - no reward was offered. Nevertheless, two-thirds of the Research Committees' Presidents or Secretaries took the assignment seriously, and began to collect information. Given that some Research Committees are by their very orientation disconnected from demand, this proportion of two-thirds can be considered as a very healthy sign.

As the date of the Conference was approaching, and I was re-

Quite late in the day - but having no budget inhibits initiative - I decided to try and have some of these institutions send a delegate to our conference. Seven of them sent one of their officers.

The Conference met on 6 April, 1992, on the premises of the International Institute for the Sociology of Law in Oñati, in the Spanish Basque Country. Oñati is a small town in the hilly country of Guipuzcoa, on the southern side of the Pyrenees mountains. A beautiful XVIth century building has been entirely renovated by the Basque government and entrusted to the ISA Research Committee on Sociology of Law to develop an international institute for this growing field. The Institute's personnel was very helpful. Thirty-two Research Committees' delegates attended (five more Research Committees sent a written report). Reports were not read but quickly summarized, delegates showing great skills in going straight to the most relevant issues and statistics.

As some patterns and issues were recurring from one Re-



proach of the Bertelsmann Foundation in Germany, and pointed out that more often than not, its expectations were not met by sociologists. Our colleagues, Shujiro Yazawa com-

mented some impressive figures about research financing in Japan, and Afonso de Barros did the same for Portugal. And as a treat, Maria Angeles Duran gave us a very vivid and frank account of the relations between Spanish academics and funding agencies, underlying graphically the fact that to get research funds, as big as possible, meant not only access to means for research, but also power and other kinds of highly desirable social goods. That such an outspoken and substantial account could be given is indicative, I believe, not only of the strength of the new Spanish women in general and of our colleague in particular, but also of the conviviality that had been built all along.

Generally speaking, the success of this conference shows that it is everybody's interest to mix Research Committees' delegates with other people. The active participation of officers from research-financing bodies obviously added a specific dimension to the conference. Be-

cal shifts and present orientations of such bodies; if made available to outsiders it throws instant light on many aspects which appear, when considered from the outside, like as many mysteries. For instance, many of us were interested to hear from such an officer that the long period during which only «quantitative» projects (based on surveys) had a chance to be selected, was drawing to an end. Besides, these managers receive projects from various social sciences and evaluate them against each other. Enlightening were their points of view, usually expressed privately, on the specific strong and weak points of each social science, its inner culture, its scholars and their usual style of work. From our exchanges I got, among many new ideas, an hypothesis that I would like to share. It is that, to a large extent, the whole tradition of sociology and the training sociologists receive orients them away from meeting the existing demands. Perhaps this is particularly strong in France, where durkheiminism

social laws, by some social mechanisms which it is sociology's task to discover, this scientific postulate may have had the unintended consequence of breeding skepticism towards reforms and reformers, towards



do-gooders who believe they can change anything; it may have promoted the skeptical attitude to the status of a core value of our profession. We take it (mistake it?) as equivalent to cartesian doubt, which is obviously a cornerstone of the scientific attitude. Is it not true that we consider the objective attitude as somehow antinomic not only to political involvement but also to a policy-oriented stance?

Since demand is always somehow policy-oriented, to take it as face-value and answer it may appear as a kind of betrayal of our genuine professional ethics. What is strange however is that neither economists nor political scientists seem to carry similar worries; is it only because they do not seem to care as much as we do about structural injustice, or also because some deep philosophical taken-for-granted assumption lying at the very heart of the way the sociological endeavour is defined by sociologists?

Other participants will have drawn different intellectual conclusions of this conference, but I do not believe it left anyone indifferent*.



cause of their position and experience such persons carry within themselves a «view from the centre»; and this view includes insider's knowledge on histori-

and structuralism have loomed so high; but in any case, my hypothesis is that sociology's basic postulate, i.e. that the social world is ruled by (hidden)

* The list of the available «first drafts» which were written for the conference is given below. If you are interested, please address your request directly to the author. In spite of the very interesting contents of these texts, there is no plan to publish them as a volume for the next Congress, since there seems to be a general dissatisfaction with the well-established practice of including Research Council proceedings «free of charge» in the next World Congress kits.

The Research Council Business Meeting

Thanks to the success of the Conference, the stage had been set for a good business meeting. There were three main points on the agenda: the problem of the fast-growing number of Research Committees; suggestions for the organization of the next World Congress; and the reform of ISA statutes. The last point, according to the present Statutes does not formally lie within the competence of the Research Council, but I thought necessary to associate it to the discussions preparing this crucial event in the life of the ISA.

For quite a while I had been aware of the existence, among quite a number of Research Committees' officers, of a diffuse feeling of resentment against «the centre», i.e. the Executive Committee of the ISA. It showed up in private conversations, sometimes in meetings, seldom in writing. The «centre» was accused of bureaucratic conduct, and of spending most of the ISA budget on other grounds than helping the Research Committees, which was all the more irritating to the Research Com-



mittees given that they perceived themselves as being the blood and flesh of the ISA, its genuinely active and productive parts.

The latter point was, by the way, also the centre's opinion; however, in the Executive Committee some were quick to point

out the reluctance of Research Committees to ask their members to join the ISA as individual members or to inform the secretariat about their activities, and the democratic deficit in some of them. RC Presidents



were perceived as barons jealous of their independence.

Knowing both sides from within I could see that some of these feelings were based on reciprocal misperceptions; but some derived from well-founded criticism. I could also see that reciprocal misperceptions were based on built-in constitutional dysfunctions whose correction would require a modification of the ISA Statutes. Given the chronic difficulties of the ISA, which make it indispensable work together rather than against each other, I considered such reciprocal feelings not only a waste, but a danger for the organization as such.

What could be done to lessen the misperceptions? Studying carefully their possible origins, I realized that the successive ISA Executive Committees had never made public the budget of the ISA. So, six months ahead of the Council, I asked the Executive Committee permission to circulate it. Eventually I was given a green light on the principle, accompanied with a strong warning on the possible conse-

quences... The raw figures are indeed shocking: the annual ISA budget is \$330,000 out of which each Research Committee receives \$1,000 once every four years. But when one is allowed to look at the detailed figures,

when one is given explanations about the hows and whys of each detailed line of the budget, it becomes more plausible. Taking a bet on the rationality of my colleagues I opened the business meeting by distributing copies of the detailed budget, complete with explanations. The ISA President T.K. Oommen was besides me, silent but obviously agreeing with this move. Well, everybody read the budget, but nobody complained or even commented on it during the whole day. I don't think it means universal consensus; it takes time to digest figures. But at least one more wall has fallen down.

The first point on the agenda was the **definition of a policy towards the fast-growing number of Research Committees**. In early 1992 the ISA had 45 of them, ten more than six years ago, and seven Working Groups were expecting to receive Research Committee status in June, while as many Thematic Groups were on their way to become Working Groups. Could we go on with the earlier «laxist» policy?

Yes, why not, said some Research Committees' Presidents; networks want the label ISA, what does it cost to grant it? But there is of course an added cost. It may be a marginal one, but if multiplied by seven, it becomes a sizeable one. Behind this, there is probably a symbolic cost, i.e. the relative depreciation in the long run of ISA-RC's status, if granted too easily. The Executive Committee has recently raised the minimum number of RC members at 50. To compare, the American Sociological Association requires 200 members to grant Research Committee status, and numbers only 35 of them.

One solution that has been repeatedly advocated by some would be to demote the Research Committees that have



fallen into relative somnolence. It is being done from time to time but, being a sanction, it invariably engenders protest, tensions, drama, losses of time, of energy, and of trust; which is why the Executive Committee cannot use it as a standard mean of government.

The solution I put forward was another one: to allow explicitly for **internal differentiation** of the Research Committees. There is actually, in the present ISA Statutes, a provision for the creation of **sections** within Research Committees. It does not specify further what a section would be, what would be its rights and duties, and which body would arbitrate eventual

conflicts between a section and the Research Committee it belongs to. I suggested that a section should have rights to a roughly proportional share of the Research Committee's communication resources such as sessions at the World Congresses, and pages in the RC newsletter; it could also organize its own workshop and conferences. I believe indeed that full use of the *section* status would solve several problems in one stroke: not only the «multiplication» problem, but also the management of large Research Committees (Sociolinguistics has long resorted to such a strategy with its «streams»), and the urgent necessity of opening the door to alternative theoretical or empirical orientations within some highly focused Research Committees with strong Presidents. It may even suit RC Presidents: with the *section* concept there is life after presidency.

One could have expected what we call in French *un levée de boucliers*, an unanimous protest of barons refusing to let the monarchic state create and protect enclaves within their own baronies. There were a few remarks going in this direction - «it will diminish the authority of the RC Presidents over their constituencies» - but they remained isolated, which I take to mean that RC leaders are in tune with their Constituencies and, on the whole, ready to accept internal differentiation. After a substantial discussion the Council did vote on my proposal and approved it unanimously minus one abstention. It will be incorporated into the new Statutes that an E.C. Sub-Committee chaired by Henry Teune has been busy preparing.

The second point on the agenda was **suggestions for the World Congress**. The debates focused around the allocation of adequate rooms and time slots. Fortunately the premises of the University of Bielefeld where the Congress will take place in July 1994, will provide enough modern classrooms and conference rooms, and the tentative schedule allows for three sessions each

afternoon. There were suggestions to determine the number of sessions of RCs according to the size of their membership (rejected, too difficult to implement); to allow for morning sessions for the Research Committees (the suggestion was approved and is passed on to the Chair of the Program Committee, Neil Smelser); and to give joint sessions priority in the afternoons, rather than exile them



to the evenings (warm approval, also passed on). As for the difficult issue of paper selection, no new solution was found besides the *poster presentation format*, but the general mood is towards a much stronger preselection of the papers that will be presented orally.

In the afternoon the Research Council took up the most difficult issue, that of the **reform of the ISA Statutes**. It must be understood that under the present Statutes, the Research Council has no vote in electing the ISA's President and three Vice-Presidents; among the latter ones even the Chair of the Research Council is elected by the ISA Council made up of representatives of national associations of sociologists (NAS). This feature of the ISA Statutes has been in my opinion one of the hidden origins of the feelings of alienation and resentment alluded to earlier, and of «isolationist» tendencies among some Research Committees. At the Oñati business meeting, the absurdity of the situation was highly visible among the forty or so participants, our President T.K.

Oommen, who had been listening very carefully to all our debates, was the only non-western scholar. With very few exceptions none of us had had a chance to vote for him: he had been elected by another body, the Council of NAS representatives.



Did he represent the NAS interests? What were these interests, and were they at odds with the Research Committees? Where did he stand in relation to Research Committees? To which extent was he recognized by RC presidents as their President? Such questions must have been on many a mind; and Oommen perceived it. So when the time came he was ready. He stepped forward and, in clear, concise statements expressed his own vision of the future Statutes of the ISA, of the new balance of power they would define (much more favorable to the RCs); and by his very openness he showed his readiness to discuss all the features of his project with the Research Committees' delegates.

What followed was, I believe, an important moment in the history of the ISA: for the first time perhaps the ISA President had a long, dense dialogue with the assembly of Research Committees' Presidents around the crucial issue of power within the ISA. There was no aggressivity, rather a mutual discovery and understanding;

one could almost see the negative misperceptions leave the minds and float uncredulously for a moment the room until they dissipated.

Always pragmatic, György Széll came to the blackboard and drew the scheme of the new political structure that seemed to emerge from the discussion. Its key new concept is the Assembly, made up of members of both the Research Council and the NAS Council (their numbers are roughly equal, 45 RCs for about 50 NAS). This Assembly would be the body which would elect the President and the three Vice Presidents of the ISA. The other member of the 17 members of the Executive Committee could be either elected at the same time, or separately by the two Councils meeting each on its own. With such a structure, the RCs would at long last have a say on the designation of the key officers of the ISA. It suddenly became clear to all that T.K. Oommen, seeing the necessity of such a reform, would defend it himself in front of the ISA Council made up of the NAS delegates that had elected him.

Other ideas were discussed too, in particular the idea of the ISA as an **individual membership organization**. This concept had been put forward by Melvin Kohn a few years ago, and defended at some point by, e.g. Vincenzo Ferrari, our jurist



in the Sub-Committee for Statutes. Among other consequences, such a reform would give much more weight to large Associations such as the American one, which under the present Statutes has formally no more voting power than the smallest of NAS's (an absurd situation). However, it would probably eliminate from the ISA whole regions of the world whose sociologists just cannot afford to



pay individually even moderate membership dues. For the time being, their only way of participating in the ISA decisional structures is through the Council of NAS; while the influence of the ASA or other highly active European associations is going to be indirectly but very significantly enhanced through the new balance of voting power.

It has become obvious long ago that the ISA Statutes needed more than marginal adjustments; that the distribution of power they define does not correspond any more to the reality of the ISA's *forces vives*, which are its Research Committees. From the Oñati discussion between the ISA President, defending the right of sociologists from developing countries to remain part of the decisional structure, and the claim of RC chairpersons - top professionals, all from the developed world - to get the lion's share in this structure, an agreement seems



on its way; moreover, each of the parties now understands the validity of the partner's position and is much more ready than before to accept it. A new unity may be on its way.

The last decision of the Research Council proved the RC delegates had understood the difficulties of the ISA as an organization, and were ready to give a hand. As we were discussing the prospect of the termination of the Spanish government's yearly grant of \$150,000, one of the RC Presidents came forward and said he felt necessary to make something concrete for helping the ISA: he was ready to give up his RC's right to the newsletter grant. Others followed suit, and it was decided that such grants would not be asked for 1992. The importance of such a move seems to me considerable; in dollars it weights only \$15,000 but in trust, willingness to help, moral support, it weights very much more. The hope that the Research Committees will join forces with

the Executive Committee in the ongoing struggle for the survival of the ISA is a tremendous asset.

Both the Oñati conference and the following business meeting were expressions, so I believe, of a new ISA philosophy which circumstances make compulsory: the philosophy of self-help. It is not sound for a non-governmental organization such as the ISA to be so heavily dependent on a given government as it has been since 1986. To focus on demand for sociological research is also to send signs that the ISA somehow is preoccupied with its own usefulness. To tilt the balance of power on the side of Research Committees as active communities of professionals also means that more will be asked from them in the years to come: more involvement in the organization's struggle for survival, more sharing of responsibilities. The ISA will need all the human resources it can get if it is to find a new momentum.

List of Reports Presented at the Research Council Meeting Oñati, 6-9 April, 1992

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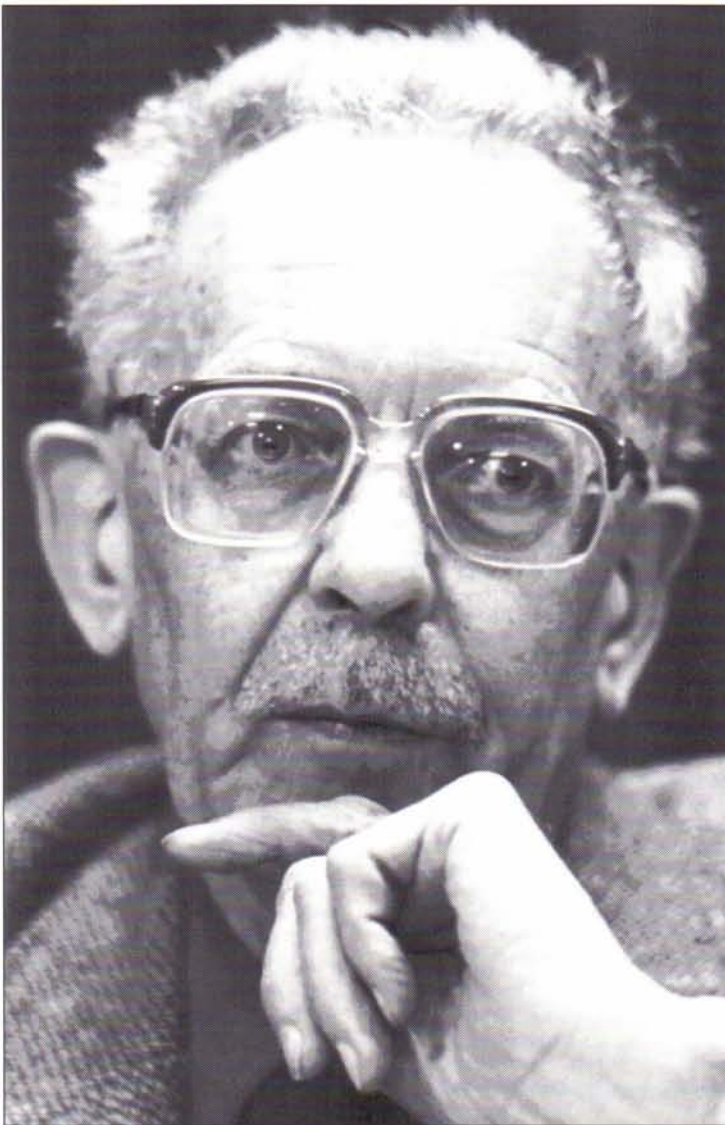
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IN MEMORIAM: TOM BOTTOMORE

by William Outhwaite, University of Sussex,
Brighton



*Photo by Paco Manzano
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Tom Bottomore (8 April 1920- 9 December 1992) was one of Britain's most admired sociologists, with a worldwide reputation for the intellectual clarity and precision of his work, his intense engagement in the work of the international community of sociologists and his enormous personal warmth and generosity to a huge circle of friends and colleagues.

Tom began his involvement with Marxism at school in Nottingham. After a first degree in economics and economic history, and military service in postwar Vienna, a city which he loved and whose intellectual traditions he greatly admired, he began graduate work with Morris Ginsberg at the London School of Economics. After a formative year in Paris he returned to teach at the LSE for the next twelve years, devoting himself to the dissemination of Marxist and other theories of society and to the study of social stratification and of what was coming to be called the Third World, notably India where he made many life-long friends. His edited collections of Marx's work and that of later Marxists, his recently revised books on classes and elites and his very influential textbook gave generations of students a clear, reliable and open-minded introduction to sociology. He was enormously active in developing the International Sociological Association (1953-1956), with a period as its President (1974-1978) and a continuing involvement in its Research

Committee on the History of Sociology.

Between 1965 and 1968 he taught at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver where he studied North American radicalism and observed it directly in the form of the student movement of that time. He returned to the United Kingdom in 1968 to Sussex University, where he worked, apart from shorts periods in Halifax, Nova Scotia, until his retirement in 1985. His graduate seminars and his personal support shaped the careers of generations of sociologists, several of whom later collaborated in his many writing projects. The placid rhythms of his ubiquitous pipe combined with Tom's own calm and measured analysis, with occasional moments of irritation marked by particularly vigorous gouging out of the spent material. By now the kind of theoretically informed sociology which Tom had always stood for had become widely accepted, even in Britain, and he guided us through the conceptual maze

with the skill of someone who had already been through it as a pioneer. It was never Tom's intention to found a school of disciples; he took particular pride in the diversity of the work of those who had learned from him. The conference which Gillian Rose organised at Sussex University to mark Tom's retirement was a major intellectual event, as some of the world's leading sociologists presented their own work and showed how much they owed to Tom's influence and friendship. And at sociological gatherings anywhere in the world, an answer to the question «Where are you from?» invariably led to the supplementary question, «How is Tom Bottomore?».

Tom in retirement was a contradiction in terms. He threw himself into a huge range of intellectual projects and, after the terrible shock of the early death of his second wife Mary, he picked them up again, returning increasingly to topics in economic sociology such as his superb work on Schumpeter

and on capitalist and socialist economies. Most recently, as we completed the editing of a major dictionary of twentieth-century social thought, he became editor of the English language edition of the Spanish-based journal *Socialism of the Future*, kitting himself out, with his children's help, with the necessary infrastructure of computer and fax machine and travelling regularly to Spain and elsewhere.

Tom's commitment to his characteristic version of Marxism as a form of social theory, and to socialism as a political project, never wavered. At a conference last month organised by Sussex students he gently chided us for being too pessimistic, just as, twenty years before, he had warned an earlier generation against theoretical or political adventurism. Tom was a passionate swimmer; it was possible to call on a chilly spring or autumn morning and find that, quite improbably, he had been in his swimming pool. But intellectually and politically he never swam with the tide, unless the tide itself had turned.



CALL FOR PROJECTS AND PAPERS

Management of Social Transformation

In the 1990s, the social sciences have arrived at a critical turning point. Facing greater demands from their users, they must adopt a strong research strategy towards transcending national and disciplinary boundaries, and providing useful information for decision-makers in the public and private sectors.

This viewpoint is echoed both by recent institutional transformations that have occurred in social science circles and recognized by social scientists.

Among the recent institutional changes, the Commission of European Communities now accepts, as of 1992, that the social sciences as such be part of the European-level Research and Development (R&D) programmes. The World Bank is eager to base its development projects on long-term, well-planned applied studies that accompany such projects. The US Office of Science and Technology (OST) has recently established a distinct social science branch, while the NSF created the Social, Behavioural and Economics Sciences Directorate instead of the formerly joint Directorate with the Biological Sciences.

In keeping with such international or national acknowledgements, UNESCO is now launching *Management of Social Transformation* (MOST), an

intergovernmental social science programme which has three major objectives:

1. To enhance the relevance and utility of the social sciences for national and international policy-making;
2. To foster the production of basic knowledge;
3. To strengthen scientific and institutional capacities, particularly in developing countries.

This programme is particularly concerned with generating information relevant for policy-makers in the private or public sectors, and is supportive of international / interdisciplinary / comparative research.

How will the programme work?

In planning MOST, numerous consultations were carried out with major social science institutions and research centers around the world, other UN Agencies, multinational firms, trade unions and the European Community. The input to the development of MOST has been extensive, and the final product described below reflects as much as possible the needs and demands of different world regions and different sectors of our society which are users of social science research.

(i) Research Areas

The list of priority research areas that was compiled during the international consultations was narrowed, for purposes of feasibility, to three major areas. Themes under which project bids may be submitted for support when the project is

launched in January 1994 are the following:

- (a) The management of change in multi-cultural and multi-ethnic societies;
- (b) Cities as arenas of accelerated social transformation;
- (c) Coping locally and regionally with economic, technological and environmental transformations.

The capacity-building functions of MOST will be directly linked to research projects accepted and pursued within the framework of these three major research programme areas. This includes institutional and scientific capacity-building such as training in empirical techniques and development of information and documentation infrastructures. Research proposals for support under any of the three areas of MOST are to be submitted by teams and institutions from a minimum of two countries. Further details about the themes, application formulas, conditions for eligibility and general guide-lines will be available upon request from the Secretariat of MOST at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris at a later date. The programme is expected to start as of January 1994.

(ii) Structure

MOST has a three-tier structure representing central, regional and national levels. Two bodies are to be established at the central level: an Intergovernmental Council and a Scientific Steering Committee. The Council - representative of all regions of the world but not exceeding 40 members - is to

look after the general policies of MOST as well as the financial issues, and will provide the linkage to governments. The Scientific Steering Committee will operate the programme and will be formed of highly competent and experienced social scientists. Membership of the Scientific Steering Committee will not exceed 10, and appointments will rotate.

(iii) Operationalization

A decentralized approach was adopted in the implementation of MOST. Each research network will enjoy autonomy and be responsible for research projects undertaken, their theoretical as well as methodological dimensions. However, the overall co-ordination of international collaborative research as well as funding decisions concerning individual projects will be the responsibility of the programme's steering bodies. The latter may also invite regional and national social science associations to provide their views on submissions and consultative regional meetings could be organized.

To guarantee its scientific credibility, strict and impartial evaluation is an absolute priority for MOST. This means that peer review will exist in various stages of all projects. The highest international scientific standards will be applied in the evaluation process, and will take into account the cultural characteristics and differences in problem perception and definition. Assistance either in initial conception or improvement of the project proposal will be provided upon request.

(iv) Financing

The basic endowment from MOST is to be provided through UNESCO's regular budget. However, the greater share of the budget is to be obtained through the fund-raising strategy of the programme by the Secretariat, from public and private, international, regional, national and sub-national sources. Possibilities of establishing an international social science fund are being explored by the Secretariat at UNESCO,

as well as regional funds coming from the European Community, and regional development banks for Africa, Asia and Latin America. Other UN bodies, and notably the World Bank, have expressed interest in funding, under MOST, social science components of their technical development projects. National funding arrangements will be made by UNESCO, and will most likely vary by country.

(v) Conclusion

The opportunities offered by MOST will benefit social science communities around the world and powerful communities such as those found in Western Europe and North America are no exception. Sociologists from around the world, and from non-Members as well as members States of UNESCO, are most welcome to participate in this exciting new programme.

World Society Foundation

The Foundation for the Promotion of Social Science Research on World Society - World Society Foundation - funds selected proposals for research on the structure of, and changes in world society.

Information and application forms are available from World Society Foundation, c/o Sociological Institute, University of Zurich, Rämistr. 69, CH-8001 Zurich, Switzerland.

Contributions in Sociology

Contributions in Sociology (Greenwood Press) series invites authors to submit manuscripts for publication. The Series welcomes a wide variety of scholarly works: monographs, edited volumes, handbooks and sourcebooks dealing with theoretical/empirical studies, problem and policy-oriented research in sociology and related disciplines.

For further information, or to submit a proposal, contact the

Editor, Professor Dan A. Chekki, Department of Sociology, University of Winnipeg, 515 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2E9, Canada.

Education/Politics

Education/Politics is a new book series to be edited for Garland Publishing by Mark Ginsburg. The series will include research-based monographs and edited volumes focused on the relationship between education and struggles over the distribution of power as well as the distribution of material and symbolic resources in the United States and other countries. Of particular interest are analyses of the politics of and through education - involving the activities of teachers, students, administrators, staff, parents, and government officials in classrooms, schools, universities, educational systems, and communities - that reinforce, challenge, or transform existing class, gender, racial/ethnic or international relations.

Please address inquiries to Mark Ginsburg, Institute for International Studies in Education, University of Pittsburgh, 5R01 FQuad, Pittsburgh, PA 15260, USA, tel: (412)6481783, fax (412)6485911.

Time & Society

A rapidly increasing number of scholars are exploring the importance of temporality in relation to theories of individual behavior and of society in general. *Time & Society* (Sage Publications) answers the urgent need for an international journal that will bring together the innovative work that is currently being undertaken in this area - work that has hitherto been published in a wide variety of disparate journals. The journal will be published three times a year, starting January 1992.

Time & Society will be interdisciplinary, focusing on views of time drawn from a number of academic disciplines and subject areas including education,

sociology, methodology, organization studies, psychology, anthropology, geography, social policy, business studies, history, philosophy, women's studies.

Contributions are invited for early issues of *Time & Society*. Papers should be original and not currently under review elsewhere. The journal also includes translated papers of outstanding quality that have been published previously in languages other than English. There is no absolute limit length but 7000 is a useful upper limit to aim for. Manuscripts should be typed, and double-spaced throughout. All manuscripts require title, author's name, and abstract of no more than 100 words, a biographical note and keywords (not exceeding five) typed on a separate sheet of paper at the beginning of the manuscript. References cited should be presented in the text by author and date and be collated into a reference list at the end of the article with the following information double-spaced: author(s), year of publication, title, and publishing data. The Harvard-style system should be used.

Three copies of the manuscript should be submitted to Barbara Adam, *Time & Society*, Sage Publications, 6 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PU, United Kingdom.

The Body in the Social Sciences

The body is a neglected subject in the social sciences, mirroring its neglect during the long history of Western civilization, all

the way from Plato up till the present modernization process and the advent of postmodernity. For the last two millennia, the body has been the stranger and the inconvenient guest of our rational culture - which in spite of its many irrationalities is so rational, in fact, that the technological development process neglected *in toto* the individual's life and identity.

The experience of modernity formed the subject matter of - and sanctioned at the same time - the schizophrenia of the artificial body-brain division. While the separation of subject and object can be seen as the achievement of the Age of Reason, postmodernism marked the return of the subject, but cut off from its corporeality, alienating the body from itself, denying the specificity of its structural and variable reality, and instead stressing a reproductive social order in which simulations and models constitute the world of knowledge. The status of the body consequently became ambiguous, the present-absent of daily life. In post-modern society, body awareness merely expresses a social symbolism, like a ghost game lit up by the virtual screens of global electronic communications.

Traditionally, the social sciences have been profoundly influenced by this typically Western dualism between body and soul, body and mind, nature and culture. While anthropology has recognized the importance of the human body in its study of traditional societies, sociology has tended to consider modern

society as an impersonal and disembodied agent which produces social behavior.

However, the body escapes from post-modern efforts to contain it within symbolical representations, as it has escaped from phenomenological «eidoses» and any other attempts at theoretical knowledge. Social thought shows itself to be powerless to embrace the specificity of the body as the principal actor in social practice, although our everyday body continues to be the principal agent of our life, and our death - perhaps increasingly our death. The body cannot be reduced to a concept of health, fitness, aesthetic form or beauty, nor is it an abstract carrier of sexuality, homosexuality, or the feminist movement - as it often seems to be in contemporary society.

On the contrary, the body forms the key for settling the above dualism, for constructing a social culture which, on the one hand, is functional for everyday life, and on the other hand is not opposed or contrary to its nature and rhythm.

All those interested in delivering a paper at the Bielefeld World Congress falling within this rather broad subject range are asked to contact Bianca Maria Pirani, Department of Sociology, University of Rome «La Sapienza», Via Salaria 113, 00196 Roma, Italy, tel: (39-6)8920105, fax (39-6)8443598. A yet to be determined number of sessions will be organized, depending on the response, while a Thematic Group could be founded if interest is sufficient.

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