

THE NEW BOUNDARIES BETWEEN BODIES AND TECHNOLOGIES

The Newsletter of the WG03 'The Body in the Social Sciences'

Spring 2007

Dear Friends,

There are two matters of significance to report in this issue of the Newsletter.

The first is to inform you about the success of the International Conference 'The Rhythms of the Sacred: time of the monk, time of the tourist on the global scene', held at the Farfa Abbey (RI), Italy, on last March 22-24, 2007. 40 speakers from 12 countries participated and 200 persons have attended daily to the Conference.

The other significant news concern the next organization frame of the WG03 Activities that we can synthesize in the following three steps:

1. The final decision about the publication of the collective book **BODIES ON THE MOVE** (edited by Bianca Maria Pirani & Ivan Varga);
2. The organization of the International Conference 'The New Boundaries between Bodies and Technologies' planned at the University of Roma 'La Sapienza' for the October 23-24 2008;
3. The organization of the book *Mapping the Body: the bodily factor in memory and social action* as support of the WG03 Program at the forthcoming first ISA World Forum of Sociology, Barcelona, September 5-9, 2008

- 1. A key task of the book **BODIES ON THE MOVE** is to do justice to the complexity of the connections between nature, society, and technologies by problematizing the corporeal body as vehicle for the inter-relational dynamics amongst creative, informational, physical and virtual processes and flows that are currently reshaping the so called 'mobility turn'.**

The chapters address the links between social constructions of the human body and the growth of completely, immersive realities (known as Virtual Reality or VR) constructed through computer software. Human bodies form a basis for social relationships.

At the moment, the proposal is currently under review by Lexington's editorial board.

- 2. What of the way that the social sciences have narrated technologies? And what of the changes that informatics and biotechnologies have introduced in the relationships between our bodies and technologies?**

The classical perspective based on the man as measure of the world - the wonderful representation of which is the Vitruvius's Man of Leonardo da Vinci - loses her competence on the hybrid body, where the man is not any longer measure of himself.

We propose this Conference on the aim of building a methodological frame able to determine the complex interrelations between bodies, identities and technologies that mould today the 'social body';

- 3. Incorporating human bodies into the understanding social relations can make a small contribution to the unravelling of the ways in which the human is not simply 'tied to' the social, but also 'tied to' the complex web of the technological and the natural..**

Such an approach provides a broader, albeit continually shifting material base from which theory can develop. By the quoted methodology, the WG03 Board plans to build the collective book *Mapping the Body: the bodily factor in memory and social action* as support of its program at the

forthcoming first ISA World Forum of Sociology, Barcelona, September 5-9, 2008. Coherently with the results of the Forum, the book will be aimed to demonstrate the basic functions that that bodies play in the extensive mapping of the human time structure. We will communicate the call for papers within the next month of June.