

RCHS
Research Committee on the History of Sociology
International Sociological Association (ISA)

NEWSLETTER

August 1998

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From the Secretary

Surprise! The last Newsletter was 'positively my last appearance' – but now this one is, to my own surprise too. The reason for this is evident below, for those not present at our World Congress Business Meeting; I shall be able finally to retire when the election, of which details are given there, has taken place. Please take this opportunity of democratic participation in the affairs of our Research Committee, and take it promptly, so that my successor is not handicapped by any delay in the handing over of the RC affairs to him.

J.P.

Montréal Business Meeting Report

The Business Meeting was held at the World Congress in Montreal, and the following decisions were made:

- Since 2 candidates for the Secretaryship had emerged since the last Newsletter, and so a postal ballot of the membership would be required, this made the opportunity to invite further nominations for other offices too, on which voting could take place in the same election. Further nominations were then taken from the floor, resulting in the complete list of candidates given on the ballot form on page ?.
- Our interim conference will be held in Torun, Poland, in the second or third week of May 2000; Janusz Mucha will act as local organiser. Full details will appear in later Newsletters.
- Topics tentatively suggested for sessions at that conference, with their potential organisers, are:

Sociologists in two worlds (Martin Bulmer)

Znanięcki (Polish colleague, to be arranged)

Archives on the history of sociology (Christian Fleck)

Biographies in the history of sociology (Dirk Kaesler)

Neo-Kantians and the problem of value (Christopher Adair-Totef)

Schools and research programmes in sociology and their dynamics (Charles Crothers)

Modalities of value incommensurability (Sven Eliaeson)

William James and sociology (Jack Barbalet)

The good society (Maarten Mentzel)

Centenaries: Simmel, Philosophie des Geldes; Jellinek, Allgemeine Staatslehre (Donald Levine)

Fin-de-siècle revisited (Hans-Peter Mueller)

Issues of inclusion: women sociologists, minority sociologists, and the sociological canon (Patricia Lengermann)

The history of predictions made for the year 2000 (Christian Fleck)

Intellectual divisions in social science revisited (Nico Stehr)

Sociology in Eastern Europe (Eastern European colleague, to be arranged)

continued over

Other colleagues are invited to make further suggestions of topics to the new Secretary, or to discuss these proposals and how they might be planned in more detail with their proponents if they are interested in them. A full list of proposals, with calls for papers, will appear later.

- Dirk Kaesler, Vladimir Kulygin and Patricia Lengermann will constitute the jury for the Chall fellowship for the next two years.
- The new Executive Council will review the Statutes, and make proposals for revision to update them and to include provision for reporting on RC finances.
- The Secretary's proposals that while the financial situation continued to be satisfactory some of our money should be placed in a savings account where it will earn interest, that help from colleagues with the cost of mailings was no longer needed, and that the policy of subsidising conference attendance by some of those who would otherwise find it difficult should be continued, were accepted.



New Members and their Interests

Peter Beilharz	American/Australian sociology - toward a comparison; Australian and British traditions; socialism, labour movements and sociology (Dept of Sociology, La Trobe University, Bundoora 3003, Australia.)
Erik Berggren	Social engineering, social science on African-Americans/by African-Americans; W.E.B. Du Bois, Gunnar Myrdal (Sofiagatan 5, 11640 Stockholm, Sweden)
Herman Schmid	National sociological associations; early theoretical formations, 1830-1900 (Dept of Social Science, Roskilde University, Box 260, DK-4000 Roskilde, Denmark.)
Karel Turza	Sociology and sociologists in periods of war and revolution (Narodnog fronta 17, 11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia.)
Sasha Weitman	Classical theories (Dept of Sociology-Anthropology, Tel-Aviv University, 69978 Tel-Aviv, Israel)

Members' Work in Progress

Wsevolod Isajiw	20th century sociological thought in the Ukraine
Herman Schmid	Comparative study of Eastern and Western sociological associations; French solidarity 1870-1910 and its impact on French sociology.



Recent publications by members



- Peter Beilharz
Peter Beilharz
Keith Doubt
- Susan Hoecker- Drysdale
- Claudia Honegger &
Therese Wobbe (eds.)
Gary D. Jaworski
- Patricia Lengermann & Jill
Niebrugge-Brantley
Thomas Osborne &
Nikolas Rose
Jennifer Platt
- Sandro Segre
- Sandro Segre
- Karel Turza
- Frederic Vandenberghe
- Sylvia Wargon
- Imagining the Antipodes, Cambridge University Press, 1997
Fabianism and Feminism, Ashgate, 1998
'The untold friendship of Kenneth Burke and Talcott Parsons',
Social Science Journal 34: 527-537, 1997.
'Harriet Martineau (1802-76): Kritische Sozialforschung,
Theorie und Praxis' in ed. Honegger and Wobbe [below].
Frauen in der Soziologie: Neun Porträts, München: Beck,
1998
Georg Simmel and the American Prospect, Albany, NY: SUNY
Press, 1997.
The Women Founders: Sociology and Social Theory 1830-
1930, New York: McGraw-Hill, 1998.
'In the name of society, or three theses on the history of social
thought', History of the Human Sciences 10: 87-104, 1997.
A Brief History of the ISA: 1948-1997, International Socio-
logical Association, 1998.
'Institutional vs. non-institutional interactions in Simmel's
sociology, with special reference to the sociology of poverty',
Simmel Newsletter 7: 77-81, winter 1997.
'Business communities and their milieu: a reappraisal of
Tönnies, Weber and Simmel', International Journal of Politics,
Culture and Society 11: 411-437, 1998.
Luis Mamford: Jedna Kritika Modernosti [Lewis Mumford: a
Critique of Modernity], Beograd, 1998.
Aliénation et réification: une histoire critique de la sociologie
allemande, Tome 2, Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse, Habermas
Éditions de la Découverte, Paris, 1998.
'La démographie au Canada 1945-1995' Dossiers et Recherches
no. 62, Institut National d'Études Démographiques, 1997.

Leo P. Chall Dissertation Fellowship

This fellowship is for \$5000, for a PhD candidate writing a dissertation intended as a contribution to the history of sociology. Applications should be submitted to Jennifer Platt, or the new Secretary of RCHS if known in time, by October 15, 1998; they will be considered by a sub-committee, which will make recommendations to the trustees, and the award will be made in January 1999. Each applicant should submit the following information, in English: a précis of the dissertation proposal (3 pages, single spaced), including a description of the project, an explanation of how the research will contribute to the field, and a description of the work so far completed; plans for completing the dissertation; two letters of recommendation; a complete academic curriculum vitae, including exam results and grade transcripts where available and any publications; a list of previous awards or fellowships. Members are urged to draw this fellowship to the attention of their promising students.

News and Notes

Sociological Origins, a new journal in historical sociology which will feature original research, archival documents and critical debate, is to have its first issue shortly; it is to appear twice yearly, and is edited by Michael Hill [address given below]. Subscriptions for North America are \$15 [individual] or \$20 [institutional]; for rates for other countries, please enquire. The first issue will include several articles on early women sociologists, plus a Chicago School symposium on E.A. Ross.

Peter Beilharz draws attention to the journal Thesis Eleven, of which he is both review editor and one of the three co-ordinating editors. It is multidisciplinary, with a remit to 'encourage the development of social theory in the broadest sense', and describes itself as 'postmarxist by necessity' and 'cultivating a diversity of critical theories of modernity'.

A group of representatives of programmes in Social Theory/Social & Political Thought/Cultural Studies met recently, and discussed the fact that a significant number of such programmes exist. A discussion of the structure of various programmes revealed striking similarities, as well as some differences. It was agreed that a field had emerged that was not reducible to any existing discipline, and that it would be desirable to begin to develop the field through an organization. It was decided to enlist the co-operation and participation of identified programmes, and to hold a meeting in June 1998, including workshops directly on some of the administrative issues that constitute common concerns for them. It is planned to create a common Web page, with an invitation to link programme Web pages, make connections with journals in the domain, and develop 'social theory' in this sense as a more coherent category for publishers to deal with. J.P. Jones will establish a listserv for the 'Consortium.' Participation in the further discussion is invited; interested members might contact Stephen Turner (his e mail number is turner@chuma.cas.usf.edu).

The Harriet Martineau Sociological Society continues to be very active. Michael Hill is planning a collective book signing session by members in Chicago at the time of the American Sociological Association conference in August 1998, and several papers on Martineau will be presented by members at that meeting. A book is in preparation based on papers from the seminar held in May. For details of the Society and its activities, contact Michael Hill, 2701 Sewell St., Lincoln, Nebraska 68502, USA.

The theme of the British Sociological Association's 1999 conference will be 'For Sociology'. It will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, from April 6-9. Papers are invited which address such issues as whether sociology should pay more attention to its core classical strength, and whether there is a case for continuity or change in its concepts, theories and methodologies. Papers are encouraged which reflect on the way in which their work relates to the traditions of sociology as well as its future. Offers of papers should be made in the form of a 250 word abstract, to be submitted by 30 September to 1999 BSA Conference, BSA, Units 3F/G, Mountjoy Research Centre, Stockton Rd., Durham DH1 3UR, England. For further information, see the BSA Web site: <http://dSPACE.dial.pipex.com/britsoc/>

J.-M. Berthelot has moved to the Sorbonne, where his address is Université René Descartes Paris V, Département de Sciences Sociales, 12 rue Cujas, 75230 Paris Cedex 05, France.

Impressions of the World Congress by Nilgun Celebi

Montréal must be one of the best places in the world to have a congress. The location of the congress centre, the university buildings and the places of accommodation were good reflections of the systematic planning of the city. The organisation of the Congress was perfect. The local arrangements committee did their job professionally; there was no queue in front of any desk, and all questions were answered immediately and correctly.

Professor Wallerstein's personality was so powerful that it covered not only the whole Congress but sociology as a discipline too. He carried sociology, maybe not to a new millennium as he wished, but to the 21st century. If he had not held the discipline so firmly through his relationship with the sociologists during his term, it might not have shown the performance which was presented at the Congress. The only shortage at the Congress was the absence of German philosophical thought; I looked for German thought at the discussions of the subject/object relation. I wish I could hear a word of German thought's consideration on the perfect paper by Margaret Archer presented to RC 16. Another shortage connected with this was the absence of consideration of H.G. Gadamer's interpretations, which I had looked for in Bielefeld too. German thought was restricted to Luhmann and to some degree Habermas too, but these did not satisfy me as I need to hear the answers of sociologists to the points raised by Gadamer. In that sense, even though I have not spoken a word to Jules Duchastel, I think he would understand me.

I tried to participate in the sessions of RCs 08, 16 and 33. The best planning was at RC 08. (This is not just a compliment.) RC 33 was at the UQ building, and that had a negative effect on participation. In fact, it would have been better if these three RCs had been in the same building. I think, again although I have not spoken a word with him, that Norman Blaikie would understand me. RC 16 was unnecessarily overcrowded, in two senses: paper givers, and listeners. I never understood (in fact I do understand, but do not approve) why some people choose this kind of session to go to sleep. In addition, in some papers the contents, if not the titles, were away from 'theorizing endeavour'. At RC 08 Ken Morrison's personal attitude against Durkheim was a perfect example of a sociologist's identity.

In general, global-local subject matters were more popular than univesality-particularity matters; personally I wish it were the reverse. Secondly, there are too many RCs; would it not be possible to reduce the number? I would propose that there should be fewer, but I do not know to whom it should be addressed. On the technical level, I have a complaint about the heaviness of the programme book; could it not be published in different volumes ordered according to the daily schedule? My other practical complaint was the non-availability of photocopies of papers given.

Other members of the RC have also agreed to write their personal impressions of the Congress, so there should be more impressions in the next Newsletter.



Election of new Executive Council

Please note that only those RC members who are *also* paid-up members of the ISA are entitled to vote, in accordance with the ISA's rules, so the ballot sheet is attached only for those members on the list of ISA members provided by the ISA Secretariat.

The following nominations have been made, and you are asked to cast your votes by placing crosses in the appropriate boxes. Dirk Kaesler is unopposed as nominee for President, so no vote is required there. The new Secretary will of course not also be one of the 10 ordinary members; only the votes for the defeated secretarial candidate will be counted for that.

When you have completed your ballot sheet, please send it to Dr Stina Lyon (School of Education, South Bank University, Borough Rd, London SE1 0AA, England) who has kindly volunteered to make the count. **It should reach her by no later than September 30.**

This issue of the Newsletter is an interim one, so it contains no information on how to pay dues. These should be paid to the new Secretary, when who that is is known. The usual details will appear in the next Newsletter.