



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

Newsletter

JUNE 2004 (Updated August)

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Editorial: From the Secretary

This edition of the Newsletter has two matters to report on where your urgent action is called for:

- First, the proposed change to the Statutes, explained below. This needs to be approved by 50% of the membership, so please act on this promptly.
- Second, we need to start our advance planning for the 2006 Durban World Congress, since session titles and chairs must be submitted to ISA by the end of October 2004. Some proposals have already been made, and more offers are looked for - see below.

Also included are reports from the Marienthal conference, as well as draft minutes from the business meeting held there. As these reports indicate, the conference was very successful, and I have officially written to thank, on behalf of RCHS, the organizer (Christian Fleck), the 'tour guides' (Reinhard Muller and Albert Muller) and also the Mayor of Gramatneusiedl (Leo Zolles). Recently, a conference was held on the History of Sociology in the UK, and a report on this is included. Thanks to the various contributors.

More generally, I am very keen to keep up the 'news' portion of the newsletter, and encourage members to send in information on their own current projects and recent publications, or news of other developments in work on the history of sociology or research resources such as archives, as well as of meetings likely to interest the membership. Some material to hand providing news about members is included.

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Statutes Change Proposal: Introduction

It has become necessary to propose some technical changes to our Statutes. The ISA is rightly concerned to ensure that its rules about membership are kept, and will not allocate available grants to Research Committees which do not observe them. The key rule here is that members of our Executive Council must be paid-up members of both RCHS and ISA, and this cannot be evaded by allowing vacancies to remain unfilled if any problems arise. The proposals made below are designed to deal with these issues in the clearest and most economical way possible, as well as clarifying the situation by covering some relevant points from the ISA's Statutes. The rather lengthy suggestions in clause V (vii) are designed to arrange for replacements as swiftly and simply as possible, while recognising that the tasks of the Secretaryship can only be done by someone with appropriate time and resources, so that this position has to be filled less mechanically.

The text below gives our current Statutes, with the proposed changes shown in italics. These changes have been approved by the members present at the business meeting held in Marienthal, but for full formal approval they must be accepted by a majority of all the members in a mail ballot. Please, therefore, let the Secretary know at once if you approve the proposals, by email to charles.crothers@aut.ac.nz or by post to him at School of Social Sciences, AUT, Pvt. Bag 92006 Auckland, New Zealand. Replies are required by 1st October, 2004. It is important that you reply, as we require a 50% acceptance level to allow the Statutes change to go ahead. Thank you.

Some additional changes that are required by the New Zealand tax authorities so that RCHS can be classified as a non-profit organisation have been recently suggested, but are still under investigation by the Executive Council. But they may be also brought to your attention soon.

Jennifer Platt
President, RCHS

Proposals for Statute Revision

Note: Passages in *italics* are those with proposed revisions.

I. Purpose

The RCHS was established by the International Sociological Association (ISA) in order to develop international contacts among scholars engaged in studying the history of sociology, to promote research in this field, and to encourage the international dissemination of such research. To this end the RCHS organizes international conferences and seminars, and publishes a Newsletter which is circulated to all members.

II. Membership

- (i) Membership in the RCHS is open to all scholars who have demonstrated their interest in the area through teaching and/ or re- search activities.
- (ii) An individual becomes a member with full voting rights upon acceptance of his/her application by the Secretary of the RCHS and payment of dues.
- (iii) Dues, as determined by the Executive Council from time to time, are payable through ISA or to the Secretary of the RCHS by whatever alternative mechanism s/he specifies.

III. Meetings

The RCHS will organize conferences sessions and a business meeting on the occasion of the quadrennial World Congress of Sociology, and one or more other conferences in the intervals between World Congress.

IV. Governing Body

- (i) An Executive Council, consisting of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, and 10 members, shall be the executive organ of the RCHS.
- (ii) The Executive Council shall be elected from and by the membership. Only those members who are also currently members of the ISA are eligible for election, *and to remain members of the EC they must remain paid-up members of both RCHS and ISA. If their paid membership lapses they shall first be sent a reminder, and shall only cease to be EC members if they fail to act upon that within a month.*
- (iii) The Secretary shall be responsible, in consultation with the President, for the routine administrative work of the RC, including the organisation of its conference programmes, the production of its newsletter and reporting to ISA, and shall also be responsible for its financial affairs. S/he shall make a general report and a report on the financial situation of the RC to each business meeting. Business meetings shall be chaired by the President if present, or by the Secretary. Interim conferences will have a local organiser who will liaise with the Secretary to plan the meeting's activities.

V. Elections

- (i) Election of the Executive Council shall be by mail ballot conducted during the year preceding the World Congress.
- (ii) The Secretary will invite nominations, which may be self-nominations or nomination by another member in good standing; candidates nominated by other members must also indicate their consent to stand [~~delete: on the nomination form~~]. All formally eligible members nominated shall be presented as candidates for election.
- (iii) Ballots will be sent to the members on the Secretary's list of members in good standing.
- (iv) The candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast will be deemed elected to each office.
- (v) An election shall be valid if more than one third of the membership votes.
- (vi) The term of office shall be 4 years. The President and the Vice-Presidents shall not be eligible for re-election to the same office for the immediately succeeding

- term. The other members of the Executive Council may continue in office for a second term, if nominated and re-elected. After two consecutive terms of service, they are eligible to continue to serve in the Council only in the office of President and Vice-President. After a term without service in office, members are again eligible for election to any office.
- (vii) *If a vacancy arises for any reason, it shall be filled as follows. For the Presidency, the Vice-President who received the highest votes at the last election shall succeed if s/he is willing; if not, the other Vice-President shall succeed if willing. If neither is willing, an election will proceed as for the Secretaryship. For the Secretaryship, nominations will be invited immediately, and if an election is required ballot forms will be sent out after a month. For Vice-Presidencies, the member of the Executive Council who received the highest votes at the last election shall succeed. For members of the Executive Council, if at the last election there were other candidates the defeated candidate who received the highest votes and remains willing shall fill the vacancy. If there are no such defeated candidates, an election will proceed as for the officerships.*
- (viii) *Where vacancies are filled as in (vii) above, those filling them shall be deemed, for the purpose of clause (vi) above, to have served a full term if their service started more than two years before the next World Congress, but not to have served a term at all if their service started two years or less before that.*

VI. Representation on the ISA Research Council

The President of the RCHS shall be *its* delegate to the Research Council, with the Secretary or, if s/he is not available, any other member of the EC as alternate.

VII. Revision of the Statutes

(i) *Proposals for the revision of these Statutes* may be submitted to the membership upon petition of twenty members to the President, or a resolution of the Executive Council.

(ii) Revision requires approval by a majority (51 per cent) of the whole membership in a mail ballot.

World Congress plans

The Quality of Social Existence in a Globalising World ISA World Congress of Sociology Durban, South Africa, 23-29 July 2006.

All members who would like to propose session topics additional to those listed below (which extends those offered at the business meeting) should send their offers to the Secretary as soon as possible. These should reach him by no later than 30th September, 2004, please. Each offer should include 6-10 lines explaining what the proposer has in mind, as below.

Several people have been asked to think about organizing sessions on the history of regional sociologies, or regional groupings of national sociologies, as one way in which more geographically far-flung historians of sociology might feel their contributions would be more welcome. In addition, does anyone have a national association that they think might be interested in giving us a joint session at their conference? – especially one which they might be willing to organise!. The final array of sessions will be decided just before the deadline by the Executive Council. More general information on the Conference can be found at url: <http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/congress2006/>.

Possible Sessions:

- History of sociology in South(ern) Africa (Cornie Groenewald cjg@sun.ac.za)
- The sixth century anniversary of Ibn Khaldun's death (1406): (Mahmoud Dhaouadi: mthwawad@yahoo.ca)
- Contributions of national sociologies to the development of world sociological knowledge (Vladimir Kulygin: kulygin@email.ru)
- History of empirical sociology (Irmela Gorges: I.Gorges@gmx.de)
- Studying the history of sociological institutions (Jennifer Platt: j.platt@sussex.ac.uk)
- Reception of recently deceased sociologists, memorial activities etc (Charles Crothers: Charles.crothers@aut.ac.nz)
- “New generation” session for graduate students, with senior discussants
- Important anniversaries, such as the 100th anniversary of Weber’s Protestant Ethic, and of the American Sociological Association.
- Asian Sociology and its Multiple Histories (Peter Baehr: pbaehr@ln.edu.hk)
- Latin American Sociologies (Gina Zabludovsky and Diego Pereyra: ginaza@servidor.unam.mx and diegoezpereyra@ciudad.com.ar)
- The History and Influence of Schools and Colleges (Cherry Schrecker: cherry.schrecker@wanadoo.fr)

Details of Suggested Sessions received to date:

Writing the history of sociological institutions (Jennifer Platt)

Some of the history of sociology has been written as the history of departments, journals, learned societies and professional associations. What are the advantages of such angles of approach to our history, and how do they affect our total picture of the history of the discipline? What are the special problems that such work raises, whether intellectual, practical or ethical? How successful have such histories been, and what needs remain for further work of this kind?

Commemorations and Memorialisations (Charles Crothers)

Recently, several very prominent sociologists have died (eg. Robert Merton, Pierre Bourdieu). How does the sociology and other communities react to such deaths? What is the effect of death as a ‘career contingency’ in the development of a sociological career? Some case studies on this topic and a view of the changes over time in the reception of the death of a sociologist might provide some interesting insights into a variety of phenomena amongst sociologists in terms of reputations, rites de passage etc.

Draft Minutes of Business Meeting at Marienthal

Present:

Jennifer Platt (chair), Charles Crothers (secretary), Stina Lyon, Dirk Kaesler, Andreas Hess, Irmela Gorges, Elfride Uner, Gilles Verpraet, Vladimir Kulygin, Diego Pereyra,

Elzbieta Halas, Mohammad Sheykhi, Hans Henrik Bruun, Ray Lee, Martin Bulmer, Uta Gerhardt, Anele Vosyliute, Sven Eliaeson, Hans Peter Sand, Christian Fleck, Suzanne Keller, Katharina Scherke, Per Wisselgren, Anna Larsson, Jeremy Smith

Apologies for absence:

No oral apologies were received

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

It was agreed that the draft minutes should be accepted as a true record.

Matters arising:

Chall Scholarship. Since no further contact had been received, it could be assumed (with regret) that the scholarship had lapsed.

Secretary's report:

It was reported that we have some 90 members of the Research Committee who are pay their subscriptions through ISA, together with a further 45 who pay directly. A description of the countries from which the membership comes was provided.

There was some discussion of how the anticipated financial surplus (including the ISA grant) might be spent. The Executive Council would discuss possibilities, which might include printing /posting a newsletter issue, funding of publication possibilities, or contributions towards costs of conference attendance.

Executive Council vacancy

Only one nomination had been received to fill this vacancy, which was due to the resignation of Stephen Turner. In accordance with the ISA statutes (in the absence of provision in the current RCHS statutes for the filling of vacancies) the President formally appointed the nominee, Peter Baehr, to fill the vacancy.

Statutes Amendments:

The President explained that the RCHS statutes needed amendment to cover contingencies of executive membership. The previously circulated draft amendments were discussed; the only suggestion made, and agreed, was to excise the brackets and "However" in clause IV (2). The amendments would be put before the membership for their approval, as required, through the next newsletter.

2006 World Congress:

Formal arrangements so far were explained, including the deadline for listing session topics and chairs of 31st October, 2004. Members not present at the meeting would be invited to contribute their suggestions before the programme was finalised.

Potential sessions suggested were:

- History of sociology in South Africa [to be organised in conjunction with SASA; the desirability of establishing links with local sociologists and other historians of social science was emphasised].
- History of sociology in Africa more generally

- History of sociology in other regions of the world, such as Asia
 - Contributions of national sociologies to the development of world sociological knowledge (Vladimir Kulygin)
 - History of empirical sociology (Irmela Gorges)
 - Studying the history of sociological institutions (Jennifer Platt)
 - Reception of recently deceased sociologists, memorial activities etc (Charles Crothers)
 - “New generation” session for graduate students, with senior discussants
- The possibility of sessions around important anniversaries, such as the 100th anniversary of Weber’ Protestant Ethic, was also mentioned, and it was hoped that the centenary celebrations of the American Sociological Association would feed into the meetings.

Some anxiety was expressed about safety in Durban. This is a matter for the ISA and the local organising committee, and it was expected that they would have any problems in hand.

Any other business: Christian Fleck and his local organising committee were warmly thanked for their excellent efforts on both practical and intellectual fronts.

Reports on the Marienthal Conference

Dr.Mohammad Taghi Sheykhi: Iran

The Marienthal Conference May 20-23,2004 took place in a friendly and educative atmosphere. To me as an Asian (Iranian)sociologist the event was quite educative--the start of development in Marienthal since mid-19th century was quite interesting to me. Similarly,the historical pictures, the exhibition of monuments etc.were full of sociological and historical points.

Although the conference was on history of sociology more with European connotations,and dominated by the Western sociologists, yet it was worth touching the developing societies too, to use sociology to solve many and increasing problems of these societies which are dominating the contemporary global society.

The sociology of developing societies must aim to offer a systematically linked set of texts to be used as a major teaching aid at university level. It must produce a sort of sociology to reflect the general outlook of developing world in a multi-dimensional Manner: viz. to provide an overall coherence, and a monolithic view of such societies.

The developing world moved into the 21st century, is facing prospects and problems radically different from those of earlier decades, i.e.more people are now urban and being influenced by changing social, economic and cultural trends. People in these societies are emerging with new wants, expectations and lifestyles followed by increasing socio-economic and cultural controversies. However, sociology of developing societies must further deal with a historic analysis of the contemporary Third World--the world we live in. The analysis and explanation of change occupying an important place in sociological tradition would include the major two parts as also Comte put it-- SOCIAL STATICS (the study of major institutions or institutional complexes), and SOCIAL DYNAMICS (the study of development and change). Both parts must strongly be studied in the Third World sociological contexts.

Anele Vosyliutez: Marienthal: remembrance and oblivion

Each scientific conference is not only meeting with the scholars, their investigations or theories, new knowledge, but the acquaintance with the culture of the country too: meetings are also the investment of our feelings.

I arrived in Austria with some its images and stereotypes in my mind.

My historical consciousness recalls that Austria has witnessed in the past many wars, ethnic conflicts, political contracts and their collapses. The relationships with Lithuania are very long and different – the crusaders from Salcburg in Prussia and Lithuania in 13-14C., collaboration between Habsburgs and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania's noblemen, the help of Lithuanian army defending Vienna from the Turks in the 17C., etc. An essential feature of Austria, I think, was its energetic character; in our days we are also feeling its cultural power and influence.

Marienthal instigated me to reflect about community, its history and fate. From the perfect photo exhibition we saw in this locality the transformation processes from traditional to industrial society. The classical concept of *Gemeinschaft/Gesellschaft* of F.Toennies (he described community as natural, bound to the local, connected with privacy unit; society – connected with the market and planning, invention) helps us to reveal the features of this transitional period. We see that social relations express also an organic solidarity, display the life of individualized persons. According to E. Durkheim, it is a sort of moral community.

The location of the conference was most adequate to the conference theme, well chosen because of the history of this community; this history we can reconstruct sustaining on visual facts and naratives.

From the pictures of the exhibition we saw the inhabitants of Marienthal, their life styles, different social roles, material resources and qualifications; the photos displayed that the actors of social life were involved in many cultural and social movements and organizations. I think, they were fun people pretending to the middle class, optimistic, believing in the creating of a perfect community.

The joyless and sad side of the community's life was later revealed by Antony Sulek in his paper. By the time of the Great Depression in 1931 the people of Marienthal belonged to a world army of the unemployed. (See M. Jahoda, P.F. Lazarsfeld, H. Zeisel study). Speaking in the terms of existential sociology, the people experienced poverty, degradation and suffering, they became distressed, hopeless individuals. We can only speculate what were their changed identities and new adaptations in the conditions after this social and psychological trauma.

Many places in Marienthal are witness to community life; I walked in the streets of Marienthal as a *flaneur* - seeing, reading the streets and landscape as text, searching the past in urban labyrinths. I was not the stranger there, I felt foretime's aura and traces. My regard I fixed at old factory and house; the aesthetics of corrosion in postindustrial society? I think, in such abandoned places we feel the magic of remembrance and romantics, there we can release our imagination. In this case the *flanerie* can help to reflect the locality as a whole, represent its parts and stages of development in one narrative.

The session on community studies was for me more required. In some aspect each conference on history of sociology is an event of remembering – of scholar, of researched community. Each remembering is socially constructed, the activity and attitude of past social actors are traced through the present. Therefore, for example., the research on Lithuanian communities in Siberia (founded by exiles) during the soviet period was forbidden for ideological reasons. In our conference many features of the shitory of community studies were analysed. The deep tradition of community studies in Polish sociology was displayed by Michal Luczewski who analyzed some features of F.Bujak, Z.T. Wierzbicki, J. Chalasinski, S. Ossowski who had made social monographs of village communities. This approach, I think, is not only the past, but also the future. Interesting ideas about the conditions under which communities disintegrate were presented by Peter Baehr.

Vienna is very dynamic, very rich, very attractive. My dreaming about Vienna is related with images of its bourgeois aesthetic, cultural heroes. I didn't think much of our trip in Vienna because the concept (municipal socialism) in the excursion reminded me of the features of communal life (poor "komunalki") in soviet time, forced solidarity. I like well-groomed Vienna, its dendism, art (Albertina, Egon Schiele, Gustav Klimt, Gustav Mahler).

Kaerntner Strasse leads me to the bus station. I'm leaving Vienna at night taking old (since 1562) tract Venice – Vienna – Cracow - Vilnius.

Diego Pereyra:

When I arrived to Marienthal, after a long trip from Buenos Aires, I felt nervous and excited. I am studying the role of international networks in the institutionalisation of sociology in my country. Hence, I know, by intellectual experience, that professional organisations and international meetings play a relevant role in the definition of social sciences and the promotion of certain research fields. As young researcher, one has only a few chances of meeting at the same place such a number of skilled scholars in your own research field. Such events are therefore a unique experience that should be squeezed to the maximum. Finally, I decided to relax and enjoy the occasion.

Marienthal/ Gramatneusiedl is a lovely place to be in. Its green landscapes really surprised me. The hotel was charming and comfortable. Also, the meals were friendly and tasteful, which was amazing since I had hoped to find eccentric flavours on Austrian plates. The conference opened with a reception by the local Mayor. Afterwards, the participants were invited to enjoy an exhibition on the history of Marienthal. That village is of historical significance because a group of local researchers, including Paul Lazarsfeld and Marie Jahoda, investigated, during the early 1930's, the consequences of enduring unemployment on a workers's community. Thus, all the spectators did a guided walking tour around the town visiting some of the old buildings that remained standing, including parts of the old factory and some of the workers's settlement.

The sessions took place in the town- hall building and in another edifice nearby. The audience consequently was separated in two parts. That situation pushed everybody to select which sessions were worthy of attending. Probably, some decisions were wrongly done but as anyone knows every option has consequences. Fortunately, the official

conference began on Friday morning with the Session on "Sociology textbooks", to which I had submitted a paper. The panel was really very interesting, albeit the necessary time for discussions was not enough. The diverse papers offered a panorama of the teaching of sociology in different countries during varied times. Future revisions of the articles read in that session could be joined together in a comparative study of the development of professional sociology in different regions and the role played by textbooks. After reading my own paper, I was free to have the benefit of listening the following sessions.

I particularly enjoyed the session on the "Impact of classics on non- western sociologies" and the second "General Session". The papers from the first general session also were attracting and challenging. However, the idea of such term as non- western sociology needs to be re-examined constantly every time by each author. I am not sure if that is the best formulae to define sociology in Russia, Latin America or Poland. On the other hand, the papers read by Martin Bulmer and Irmela Gorges were especially appealing. But, my favourite session was the meeting on critical readings about Sven Eliaeson's book entitled "Max Weber's methodologies: Interpretation and critique". The speakers showed so outstanding managing of concepts and time that the discussion was amusing and fascinating. Lastly, on Sunday morning, a drizzling- windy cold Vienna received the participants of the conference who took part in a tour through the Austrian capital city.

Taking the conference as a whole, the event was successfully organised. The assistance of local students was important and they contributed to make everybody feel comfy, especially to the ones who did not speak German. Also, the contribution of Christian Fleck as organiser and helper in every little difficulty should be recognised. As usual in such gatherings, the best of discussions were in talking during lunch and dinners, or simply along walking or in the bus. It was enormously stimulating to meet and chat with prestigious and clever colleagues.

The field of the history of sociology and social research has showed a large potential in Marienthal. Further development will surely increase even more the links and communication amongst scholars interested in that field. Nevertheless, it is desirable the increasing participation of researchers from peripheral and many times forgotten regions, such as Latin America and Africa. Actually, I would not want to be again the only Spanish-language speaker in the future conferences. Happily, we are planning certain actions in order to develop this investigation field in Buenos Aires. Latin American researchers should not be thus taken apart from international research activities on history of sociology. Marienthal is far away from Banfield, my homeland in Argentina. However, It was a great experience to be there. Today, I am already looking forward to the next RCHS meeting.

Martin Bulmer:

Marienthal is part of the municipality of Gramatneusiedl, in countryside about 30 km south of Vienna. It was the site of a large textile factory, built originally in the 1860s, around which a village for the workers was constructed, and it was from the early twentieth century a strongly social democratic large village, with its own council. It was, of course, there that the work for the famous study The Unemployed of Marienthal,

published first in German in 1933, by Marie Jahoda, Paul Lazarsfeld and Hans Zeisel was carried out in 1930-32. Our conference was held, at the invitation of the town council, in their meeting hall in the centre of the village, and a substantial exhibition about the village and the monograph had been assembled there by Dr Reinhard Muller. There were about 30 panels tracing, through photographs captioned in German and English, the development of Marienthal, and giving information about the authors and the book.

The factory no longer exists. It was burnt to the ground in April 1945 by the Wehrmacht retreating in the face of the advancing Red Army, and other industry has been built on its site. A striking painting was distributed which I shall put up in the common room for a few days. However, a good deal of the original workers' housing survives, and the conference began with a tour of the village, conducted by Dr Muller, showing us and telling us about various buildings and their history. In the course of this we observed a plaque, erected by the village in 2002, to honour the recently deceased Marie Jahoda as the first author of the monograph, paying tribute to the monograph, and quoting the final sentence of the book on the plaque. It is the first occasion on which I can recall seeing a work of sociology [as distinct from a famous sociologist] commemorated on a plaque in this way. This tour was followed by a reception by the town council, and a performance by a local musical group.

The conference itself had about 50 participants, from Austria, the UK, Germany, Scandinavia, France, Belgium, the US, Iran, Argentina, etc. There was a wide ranging and varied programme including papers on Max Weber and Georg Simmel in Vienna, two papers on Paul Lazarsfeld, several papers on sociology textbooks, a session on the conceptual history of 'civil society', a session on community studies, discussion of the impact of classics on non-western sociology, a session on the public understanding of sociology, and an author meets critics session around Sven Eliaeson's book on Max Weber's *Methodologies*. Most of the time, there were two parallel sessions, which meant one could not hear everything which one wanted to hear, but kept the size of each group down to a level at which most could contribute. The level of discussion was good, and it was generally a success.

On Sunday morning, the conference participants were taken on a bus tour of the centre of Vienna which was of particular interest. Vienna, of course, as the major city of the Hapsburg Empire, has a long history and a very large number of massive buildings of one kind and another and has all sorts of historical associations. The tour, however, focussed upon the period from 1870 to 1945, and particularly what is sometimes termed 'Red Vienna', the development of municipal socialism and municipal enterprises, culminating in the period 1934-1938 in pitched battles between the left and the Austrian army backed by a right-wing government, followed by the Anschluss of 1938 and the incorporation of Austria into the German Reich. Of the Jewish population of the city in the mid-1930s, approximately 100,000 emigrated in this period, including many famous social science figures from Freud and the authors of the Marienthal monograph downward, and 70,000 perished in German concentration camps during the war.

We passed the shop from which the Jahoda family business had been carried on before 1938, and saw various other sites including the palace in which Beethoven's fifth symphony was first performed, the house built to modern design by the Wittgenstein family, the municipal gas holders - enormous brick structures which now appear to have been adapted into yuppie housing - the very large former mental hospital site converted in the 1980s as another campus for the University of Vienna, etc. Most interesting was to see the massive public housing developments built in the late 1920s, as multi-storey blocks [typically 5-7 floors high] with up to 1,000 flats within them. Two of these, the Karl Marx Hof and the Friedrich Engels Hof, were particularly impressive, apparently still in reasonably good shape - having been built to a high standard - and the latter built around large courts with little access from the outside, and could be defended against intruders, as they were against the Austrian army after the general strike of 1934, when the buildings were shelled. We passed the location of the SS headquarters in the city, now the site of a memorial. I took with me a book by Hella Pick about post war Austria, entitled Guilty Victims, which discusses the difficulty which the country has had in coming to terms with its Nazi past, discussing Waldheim, Heider, etc. I must say her strictures did not seem to apply to our hosts for the conference. I was also struck, as in Berlin four years ago, at how much the axis of development in Europe is shifting to the east, and how the continent now looks eastward.

Jennifer Platt:

On the wall at the side of the town hall in which we met there were various, mainly obscene, graffiti. It was, however, noted that contemporary vandals in the country of Freud show impressive respect for their cultural heritage. These included the message (in English): "Kill your Dad"!

Report on The History Of British Sociology In The Twentieth Century

On 13 and 14 May 2004, the history of British Sociology was the theme of a conference organised jointly by the British Academy and the British Sociological Association, held at the premises of the British Academy at 10 Carlton House Terrace in the St James's area of London. About 80 people participated. The conference was opened by the President of the British Academy, the sociologist W G Runciman, who welcomed the attention to the history of the discipline being paid by the BA, and the collaboration with the British Sociological Association which had made the event possible.

Two books were the centre of attention at the conference, the new study published in March 2004 by Oxford University Press, authored by A H [Chelly] Halsey entitled A History Of Sociology In Britain: Science, Literature And Society [ISBN: 0199266603] and Jennifer Platt's The British Sociological Association : A Sociological History {Durham, UK: Sociology Press, 2003; ISBN 1903457068}. Both authors presented papers related to their book, then Martin Bulmer acted as discussant to both, followed by a lively general discussion, including divergent contributions from the floor from scholars such as John Goldthorpe, John Brewer and Mike Rustin.

The afternoon session of the first day was devoted to considering the view of sociology from other disciplines, and included Roderick Floud and Pat Thane discussing the view from social history, John Peel discussing the view from social anthropology, and what differentiated anthropology and sociology, and the view from Demography and Economics presented by John Ermisch. Martin Bulmer had referred in his morning discussion to the long-standing rivalry between history and sociology at Cambridge University, though the History Faculty had also been a training ground for a number of future British sociologists, including the President of the British Academy himself.

On the second day, the morning session was devoted to the view of British Sociology from abroad, with papers by Professor Dominique Schnapper from Paris with a French view, Professor Robert Erikson from Stockholm with a Swedish view, that of a scientifically-oriented sociologist, and Colin Crouch at the end of ten years at the European University Institute in Florence, giving an expatriate view with a focus on mainland Europe. The conference concluded with a summing up and set of concluding remarks by John Scott, President of the British Sociological Association.

It was a stimulating conference which defies easy summary. Chelly Halsey's new book reports the results of a survey of all British professors of sociology, contains extensive discussion of the development of British sociology, particularly from mid-century, partly based on personal knowledge, and concludes with brief views of the state of British sociology from eight other distinguished figures. Jennifer Platt's history of the BSA is also recommended, based upon archival research, interviews with participants, and perhaps an even more solid empirical grounding. Both are a good read and major contributions to the history of our discipline.

Martin Bulmer

News from Members, Recent Publications etc.

Introducing New Executive Council member Peter Baehr:

BAEHR, PETER

Professor of Political Sociology, Department of Politics and Sociology, Lingnan University, Tuen Mun, Hong Kong.
BSocSc, PhD (Leicester); CertEd (Manchester)



Very Recent Book/Monograph Publications:
Journal of Classical Sociology: special issue on the Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism (editor: 2005)

Dictatorship in History and Theory (CUP: 2004)

Founders, Classic, Canons (Transaction, 2002)

Translation of The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism and other writings (Penguin, 2002)

For further information see: <http://www.ln.edu.hk/psd/staff/pbinfo.htm>

Gonzalo Cataño

Present position. Researcher and Social Theory professor of Universidad Externado de Colombia at Bogota.

Degrees: Master of Arts 1973, Stanford University; Diploma in Sociology, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, 1969.

Professional Accomplishments. I have published the following books, compilations and translations:

Educación y sociedad en Colombia, edited by G. Catano, 1973.

La sociología en Colombia: balance crítico, 1986 (third edition, 1997).

Educación y estructura social: ensayos de sociología de la educación, 1989

La artesanía intelectual, 1995 (second edition, 2004).

Historia, sociología y política: ensayos de sociología e historia de las ideas, 1999.

Crítica sociológica y otros ensayos, 2000.

Luis E. Nieto Arteta: esbozo intelectual, 2002.

Max Weber, "Sobre la burocratización", translated by G. Catano, 1880 (from English).

Max Weber, El poder del Estado y la dignidad de la vocación académica, translated by Yolanda Ramírez and G. Catano, 1990 (from English).

Emile Durkheim, Educación y pedagogía: ensayos y controversias, translated by Ines E. Castano and G. Catano, 1998 (from French).

Honors: President Colombian Sociological Association (1980-86).

Advisory editor *Revista Colombiana de educación*; *Revista de Economía Institucional*. Member of Editorial Board of *Current Sociology* (1986-1990).

Recent work: Now I am working on a paper, "M. Weber and Education". It will appear as introduction to a Spanish collection of Weber's papers on university problems. A recent publication is Gonzalo Cataño, "Robert K. Merton", in *ESPACIO ABIERTO*, vol. 12, No. 4, Maracaibo (Venezuela), octubre-diciembre, 2003, pp. 471-492.

Nico Stehr:

After spending the winter term 2002-2003 as Paul Lazarsfeld Professor at the University of Vienna, Nico Stehr has been appointed to the Karl Mannheim Chair for Cultural Studies at the new, private Zeppelin University in Friedrichshafen on Lake Constance, Germany.

Recent publications:

(with Reiner Grundmann) Werner Sombart: *Economic Life in the Modern Age*. New Brunswick and London: Transaction Books, 2001.

The Governance of Knowledge. New Brunswick, New Jersey: Transaction Books, 2004.

(ed. with Christian Fleck) Paul M. Neurath, *Die Gesellschaft des Terrors. Innenansichten der KZs Dachau und Buchenwald*. Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 2004.

(ed., with Christian Fleck) Paul M. Neurath, *The Society of Terror. Inside Dachau and Buchenwald*. Boulder, Colorado: Paradigm Publishers, 2004.

Knowledge and Economic Conduct: The Social Foundations of the Modern Economy. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2002.

Wissenspolitik. Die Überwachung des Wissens. Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp, 2003.

Knowledge Politics. Governing the Consequences of Science and Technology. Boulder, Colorado: Paradigm Publishers, 2004

Diego Ezequiel Pereyra is a sociologist with a MA in Social Research (University of Buenos Aires) and a PhD. Candidate (University of Sussex at Brighton). He is interested in the history of sociology and social sciences, the development of sociological theory and the professional role of sociologists in Latin America. His doctoral research is on the role of the international networks in the institutionalisation of sociology in Argentina (1940- 1963). Diego has been awarded the José A. Estenssoro/ British Council Scholarship, 2002-2005, and the Rockefeller Archive Center Grant Award, 2003. He is currently doing fieldwork in Argentina, where he coordinates a Working Group in History of Sociology at the local Professional Council of Sociology.

Simon Tulelli's paper "Methodological triangulation and empirical sociological research: Paul F. Lazarsfeld contribution" is to appear in *Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale*.