



Newsletter

November 2011

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Editorial

Our forthcoming interim conference in Dublin next summer is steadily moving closer. A conference website has now been launched by Andreas Hess and his local team and we have already at this early stage received and accepted no less than 60 interesting proposals. You will find much more to read in this issue about the conference and the (still provisional) programme, with its 17 thematic sessions and the plenary sessions with invited speakers, a book session and a roundtable discussion, as well as the practical details. And it is still not too late to submit paper proposals! The next date to keep in mind is January 10. By then we will make a second review of proposals. After that the programme will be specified and the online registration will be opened. The final programme will be settled after March 31 and then published, first on the conference website, and then in the May issue of the Newsletter, which also will include a full list of all paper abstracts.

But there is also much more going on besides the interim conference, both sad things and more positive events. Hence, in this issue you will find, after Peter Baehr's presidential letter, both an obituary and three conference reports, as well as information about recent publications and other forthcoming RCHS-related events.

Since we are now getting closer, not only to the Dublin meeting, but also to a new year, please make sure to check your membership status in the enclosed appendix, if it is time for you to renew it.

The next issue of the Newsletter is scheduled for May 2012. You are as always more than welcome to submit any contributions to the Newsletter that may be of interest to our members by then!



President's message

by Peter Baehr

Dear Colleagues,

I am greatly looking forward to seeing you all at the Dublin interim conference. It promises to be an intellectual feast with the additional advantage of the kind of intimacy that tends to be eclipsed by large pan-ISA events. Andreas Hess and his Dublin team are to be sincerely thanked for all the preparatory work they are doing on our behalf; and not forgetting the RC Secretary Per Wisselgren who also has been intimately involved in readying the schedule of speakers and sessions. Per also takes on much of the unglamorous but vital work of the RC year round. What would I do without him? That's easy: have a nervous breakdown.

Members may know that Peter L. Berger's memoir, *Adventures of an Accidental Sociologist* (2011), was recently published by Prometheus Books. Since this is a recollection by one of the discipline's seminal figures, I thought it pertinent to offer a few selective reminders of, and reflections, on his career.

Now in his early eighties, Berger's teaching career began in 1957 at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina (now UNC-Greensboro); in 1959 he moved north to the Hartford Seminary Foundation (in Connecticut). From there Berger proceeded to the New School (1963-1970), Rutgers University (1970-1979), Boston College (1979-81), and thence to Boston University as a beneficiary of the University Professors Program established in the 1970s by president John Silber. At Boston U, Berger headed a research project on economic culture that produced monographs and edited collections galore, many of which were well reviewed. But of course it is his early books that propelled him to academic renown and for which he is best remembered. *The Social Construction of Reality* (1966; co-authored with Thomas Luckmann) is among only a handful of texts

written since 1945 that are not just *de rigueur* for specialists in a specific field, the sociology of knowledge in this case, but famous across sociology as a whole. I doubt *Social Construction* is much read today by generalists; it is certainly the least lively, most ponderous and jargon-loaded of Berger's works. That matters little. Textbooks ubiquitously reference it. Sociologists think they know it and think that everyone else knows it or should know it. And an entire attitude towards sociological understanding is ineffaceably linked to Berger's name. Admittedly, the phrase *social construction of reality* is today so clichéd and so grossly misused that it is hard to recall the frisson it once produced or even what it originally meant. Intellectual banalization and misappropriation are the tributes posterity pays to an idea's infant charisma.

Berger's first book was *The Precarious Vision: A Sociologist Looks at Social Fictions and Christian Faith* (1961), a text I read recently for the first time. It is Berger's most experimental work, skillfully interlacing fictitious character portraits and sociological exegesis. Had he continued in this vein, Berger might even have fashioned an entirely new genre of writing: sociological fiction. The book was also personally daring. From a position of radical Protestantism, indebted to the existential theology of Karl Barth and particularly Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Berger challenged fellow believers to return to the basics of their faith and to recognize the inhuman side of Christianity as an ossified and corrupt religion. Atheists were right to charge religions, Christianity included, with deception and self-righteousness. They were right to see religion as a distorted projection of human qualities. They were right to dispute the conflation of morality and religion. The Christian alternative to atheism, Berger insisted, was a rejection of religion and an affirmation of *faith without fictions*, one that opposed the example of Jesus Christ to

society's institutionalized callousness and cruelty.

As a historian of sociology, I asked myself how Berger made the conceptual transition from a faith based sociology to a sociology of a more generic kind; and, further, how he managed to define himself as a distinctive sociological thinker. Re-reading *Invitation to Sociology: A Humanistic Perspective* (1963), the book that followed *The Precarious Vision*, furnished the basis of an answer. Berger's passionate Christian declaration was obviously too alien to have garnered a wide sociological readership. Accordingly, in the transition from *The Precarious Vision* to *Invitation to Sociology*, "faith" (prominent in the subtitle of *Vision*) cedes place to a "humanist" perspective (the subtitle of *Invitation*), the adjective broad enough to embrace believers, agnostics and atheists alike. Another difference between the two books is intriguing. In *The Precarious Vision*, Berger hesitated as to which among competing abbreviations of sociology's approach he should adopt: the key terms floated are *imagination*, *consciousness* and *vision*. All of them spoke to aspects of his personae. But two of the three terms brought baggage that was uncongenial for an author seeking to establish a distinctive sociological voice. "Vision" carried religious connotations ill

suited to a predominantly secular sociological audience. "Imagination" was better, evoking the poetic side of sociology that Berger so often affirms. But it was strongly associated with another writer: C. Wright Mills. The danger of playing second fiddle was obvious. Already, *The Precarious Vision* looked dangerously close to being one long appendix of Mills, as the book opened with extensive references to him.

Denoting both a philosophical preoccupation and a psychological reality, *consciousness* was, on the face of it, more turgid than *vision* and blander than *imagination*. But its generic, free-floating quality - redolent of George Herbert Mead, William James, Henri Bergson and Edmund Husserl - made it roomy enough for Berger to fill it with conceptual furniture of his own choosing. Accordingly "Sociology as a Form of Consciousness" is the anchor chapter in *Invitation*. An added bonus to *consciousness* was a word that straddled mental and moral, ideational and agentic, aspects of human life; it alerted readers to not just a state of mind in some neutral sense, but to a state of *awareness*, namely that "freedom begins with consciousness" of the largely fictitious world in which we live.

Well, just a few thoughts to share. See you in Dublin in June.



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For more detailed presentations of the individual members of the board, please see the November 2010 issue of the RCHS Newsletter.



OBITUARY

Ulf Himmelstrand in memorial

by Hedvig Ekerwald

Ulf Himmelstrand, Uppsala Sweden, has passed away on June 8, 2011. He leaves behind his wife Karin and his three children. Ulf Himmelstrand, professor of sociology and chairman of the International Sociological Association 1978-1982, was also a member of our RCHS. He participated with a paper at our committee sessions in Brisbane Australia 2002, but his paper was read aloud as he could not come himself. When he was young, he participated likewise with a paper at an ISA conference in Italy 1959 and could not come. His paper at that time was read aloud by Talcott Parsons himself. Ulf was the link between the generations of sociologists devoting themselves to the discipline.

Ulf Himmelstrand was born on August 26, 1924 in Turipattur, in colonial India, as son of missionaries for the Swedish Church. It is there where the origin of his planetary view may lie. He wrote his dissertation in Uppsala, at the oldest department of sociology in Sweden (established in 1947). His dissertation *Social Pressures, Attitudes and Democratic Processes* came in 1960. Then he was a Rockefeller fellow in USA 1960-1961, professor of sociology at the Ibadan University in Nigeria 1964-1967, fellow at the Center for Advanced Study at Stanford

University in USA 1968-1969, guest professor at the University of Nairobi, Kenya in the early 1980's and professor of the Sociological department at Uppsala University from 1969 to his retirement in 1989.

Attitudes were at the centre of his research work, framed in political sociology. The last research article he wrote, "Social norms, social identities and social distance", was published in Swedish in *Sociologisk Forskning*, the sociological referee journal of Sweden, in 2009. It reconnects with his L-scale in his dissertation concerning the links between the world of words and the world of things. Ulf Himmelstrand wrote in 2009: "As these two isomorphic worlds also have their own constellations of habits and emotional associations, there may emerge psychological dissociations which puzzle the naïve person." Gaps between words and deeds were at his focus. Hans L. Zetterberg asserts that Himmelstrand's dissertation is the first empirically verified correction of the rational choice theory. Not only rational self-interest but also emotions influence our choices.

One central thing that we, his students, learnt from him was the importance of pluralism. A sociological department should not be ruled by a single theoretical or

methodological perspective. A constant dialogue between scholars of different views was necessary for quality. Pluralism demanded respect and an ability to listen and this also distinguished himself. He made good use of that ability as a professor building up a postcolonial sociology in Nigeria, as chairman for ISA negotiating cold war conflicts within the sociological community and as a professor in Uppsala in 1969 in the middle of student revolts.

I wish some of the chapters of his vivid autobiography, *Ögonblicket* (2000) could be translated into English as they concern the history of sociology.

If any reader of this piece is having a good memory of Ulf Himmelstrand, please send it

on to me. Missing Ulf Himmelstrand as I do, there is some consolation to be fetched in that he is missed by so many around the world.

Uppsala, November 15,
Hedvig Ekerwald
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PS. More to read: In *Global Dialogue* no 1 this year, there are obituaries on Himmelstrand written by Ayodele Samuel Jegede and Margaret Archer. From the funeral there is Hans L. Zetterberg's speech in Swedish (http://www.zetterberg.org/Lectures/11107_12.htm). Moreover on the ISA site there is Jennifer Platt's biography on Ulf Himmelstrand.



Reports

Conference: "Saul Alinsky : a rebel or an organizer?" Strasbourg (France) 9th and 10th September, 2011

by *Suzie Guth*

Barely remembered as one of the figures of American sociology's history, Saul Alinsky has nevertheless been recognized as a talented activist through the community organizations he created. The Strasbourg conference was held to share and exchange about Alinsky's fascinating and intriguing personality and work.

Unraveling Alinsky's youth and his bond to the Chicago School of Sociology was the purpose of the first papers. Archival material enabled Suzie Guth to explore the early stages of Alinsky's student career under the guidance of Robert Park and Ernest Burgess. She commented his vivid report on the Taxi Dance halls, an immigrant institution described in Paul Cressey's well-known thesis, which was viewed by sociologists as a mirror of the outside world ethnic mosaic. At that time, with their

freedom they brought to the interaction process, the dances appeared as a new way of socializing; for sociologists they epitomized modernity in action. Referring to Steven Dubin's article in *Urban Life*, Suzie Guth also reminded of the normative side of the observations made by the sociologists, including Alinsky while a student.

Marie Fleck was interested in Alinsky's eight year experience in collaboration with the sociologist Clifford Shaw and, more specifically, with the Chicago Area Project, a program of juvenile delinquency prevention implemented in several neighborhoods of Chicago. Despite Alinsky's multiple criticisms and his implicit rejection of Shaw's *sociological social work*, of the Chicago School of Sociology as an heritage and of the academic world in general in his interviews, his affiliation is conspicuous when we

consider the ideas shared with Clifford Shaw's Chicago Area Project embodied in the community organizations. Both were grassroots organizations initiated by professional organizers, entailing the participation of the residents seen as the actors of their life, of the neighborhoods' "natural leaders" and of the local institutions.

As for Thierry Quinqueton, the author of "What would Saul Alinsky do?" (2011), a book recently published in French, revisiting Saul Alinsky's influence in America, he helped us to understand Saul Alinsky's ties to the Catholic Church. Alinsky's community organizations were heavily supported by the Catholic Church but paradoxically, Alinsky had neither personally nor professionally endorsed this religion. Thierry Quinqueton notes that the organizer's leeway, his irreverence and his sense of provocation were made possible by the American pluralism and its pluri-religiosity, by the status of the Catholic Church in the United States, the church of the oppressed classes. What really mattered was Alinsky's project designed for the "have-nots", not his personal faith.

In his presentation, Pierre Lannoy discussed the concept of power used in Alinsky's work. He compared it to Michel Foucault's perspective: despite Alinsky's and Foucault's different approaches, the first known as a man of action, the second as a man of thought, both showed a particular interest to the notion of power. To both, power refers to the ability to act; it implies and requires the organization of the social forces. To them, power cannot be effaced; it is an object of struggle that never ceases to be exercised. While Alinsky and Foucault's conceptions of the world opposed, they both teach us that democracy doesn't involve a weakening of power as one might have imagined: a society without any relation of power is an abstraction; a capitalist society without organized relations is an historical abstraction.

Sophie Body Gendrot (Paris Sorbonne), a well-known French sociologist specialized in

US urban violence, invited us to meditate on the means of conflict, the principles of these micro organizations and accountability. She listed the principles on which the community could be organized and demonstrated its application with reference to the Woodlawn experience in Chicago how it worked really out: 11 churches out of 19 gave support, 4 churches disagreed. She added some examples from the Bronx, and Brooklyn in order to give an appreciation to the understanding of the whole process. In most cases it is successful in urban areas, but it has not the least influence with society at large. Success if success there is, is limited to a neighborhood, it is also limited in time, what about Woodlawn today? Professor Sophie Body-Gendrot outlined the originality of the whole social process and pointed out the weaknesses of community organizing in time and space.

Nicolas Görtz from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium) wondered about the future of such urban organizations. 25 years after Alinsky's Back of the yard organization in 1972, the urban area became segregationist, he points out the lack of collective interest, he also argued that community turned inwards around its own ethnic bonds. Alinsky's methods of organizing belong to unionism and to his Joliet experience but they lack any form of long lasting ideology. It is a mixture of individual and collective consciousness founded on different religious and radical beliefs, but after a while only individual interests remain.

Hélène Balazard has carried out an observation in East London on *Broad based community organizing processes* and community development. In 2011, 228 institutional associations belonged to that heterogeneous form of association. She looked at the specific features of this kind of association for urban development. She was particularly interested in face to face contacts, the search for leaders and leadership training. This type of organization wants to promote participation and local citizenship, social justice and democracy. Its role is to instigate

a counter-power in order to be able to share responsibility and take action in a large urban area. Action seemed to be the paramount end of this large grouping instead of reflection on the means and ends. It developed a type of career with similar norms and in H el ene Balazard's point of view the establishment of an oligarchy is not far away. This can be considered as a limit to the ends of the association as shown by Weber's student Robert Michels.

Daniel Zamora from the Universit  Libre de Bruxelles insisted on the process of self-government performed by community organizations. Instead of asking for more charity funding or welfare money – as in Lyndon Johnson's war on poverty – in Alinsky's process of organizing power, power comes from within. It is in the community that one finds the subsidy, the resources necessary for change, in the sense that the community's members become a political subject. Liberation is thought of as

an organizational process and, so far, knowledge isn't seen as conducive to this sort of emancipation.

Marie Kortam developed a comparison between Palestinian youth in Lebanon and gangs of French youngsters in Parisian suburban "quartiers". Conflict is the heart of Alinsky's strategy, he uses the feelings conflict arouses, to develop different kind of tactics and strategies as means of arriving at the community's ends. In a disenchanted world violence must be channeled if it is to meet the organizational needs of the community.

In conclusion, Saul Alinsky appears as an inspiring sociologist not only in America but also in European countries such as Great Britain, Germany (Berlin) and now in France. The participants of the conference expressed the idea that such a meeting was a first step towards a better knowledge of the author and his many achievements.



Symposium: "Paul Felix Lazarsfeld – His Methodological Inspirations and Networking Activities in the Field of Social Research"

by Tom s Hole ek

The symposium was held at the Institute of Sociological Studies, Charles University in Prague on September 25–27, 2011. It aimed to develop an understanding of the many sources of inspiration and ties that helped to develop and unify social science methodology thanks to P. F. Lazarsfeld's research and organizational activities. Since the birth of Paul Felix Lazarsfeld in Vienna (1901) 110 years have passed, and 35 years have passed since his death in New York (1976). P. F. Lazarsfeld was an 'organizational man'. He founded four research institutes – in Vienna, Newark, Princeton and New York – during his active 45-year scientific career. He assembled an unprecedented network of social scientists, ranging from the fields of sociology, social and developmental psychology, history,

communication science, demography, social anthropology, and philosophy, to mathematics and statistics and the Frankfurt School of criticism, and he established many ties between Europe and America involving Vienna, New York, Paris, Oslo, Palo Alto, Rome, Chicago, Warsaw, Washington, Moscow, Princeton, and even Prague. He and his close colleagues inspired two generations of social scientists in the field of research methodology. His research, educational, scientific and organizational activities served to unify social research for almost 45 years, from the time of his famous Marienthal study, which used both quantitative and qualitative methods, to his UNESCO seminars in the 1970s in Eastern Europe.

The symposium was a follow-up to the successful WAPOR Thematic Seminar “The Early Days of Survey Research and Their Importance Today”, which was held in Vienna on July 1-3, 2010. Bardwell Press will publish the book *The Early Days of Survey Research and Their Importance Today*, edited by H. Haas, H. Jerabek and T. Petersen, which will be based on the main ideas produced by the seminar in 2012. The symposium in Prague was organized by a team of scholars: Hynek Jerabek (Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic), Thomas Petersen (WAPOR, Allensbach, Germany) and Hannes Haas (Universität Wien, Austria).

The symposium’s program was divided into five sessions: ‘Methodological Inspirations by PFL’, ‘PFL Inspiration in the Field of Theory & Methodology & Logic’, ‘PFL & Development of Sociological Methodology’, ‘PFL’s Influence in the World - His Intellectual Network’, and ‘Fields and Networks of PFL’s Collaboration’. A total of 22 papers were presented by sociologists, historians of sociology and methodologists from 12 countries, including Japan and the USA. One paper was presented via SKYPE technology.

Among the papers presented, I would particular like to mention the following: Hynek Jerabek (Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic) opened the symposium by describing and enumerating PFL’s main methodological inspirations and networking activities in the field of social research. The methodological inspirations included new fields of social research (market research, unemployment sociography, survey analysis in public opinion research, audience research, evaluations in media research, communications research), new problems, new research strategies, tools and instruments and new analytical methods. Thomas Petersen (WAPOR, Allensbach, Germany) presented a careful re-evaluation, well-grounded in empirical data, of the concept of opinion leaders as an example of an established theory in constant need of theoretical and analytical reflection; he

showed that “under certain circumstances in a modern media society the Two-Step Flow of Communication can be deactivated and replaced by direct media effects.” Christian Fleck (University Graz, Austria) focused on PFL’s “attempt to develop what he coined an empirical theory of action”, the attempt was particularly interesting owing to its combining psychology with empirical social research and its openness and unfinished nature. Tim F. Liao (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, USA) presented an outline of further development of PFL’s influence and impact in American sociological methodology. In his paper and in the discussion that followed, there appeared a remarkable institutional divergence between PFL’s influence in Europe and the USA. For the purpose of methodological inspiration, it would be very fruitful for us to address the recent trends presented in the paper. Ken’ichi Ikeda (University of Tokyo, Japan) showed the living influence of PFL’s methodology in communication studies in Japan, describing his current project on consumer behavior with a multi-agent-based modeling approach in three stages: the modeling consumer behavior with surveys based on snowball sampling; the artificial reconstruction of natural complex social network properties; and simulations of a diffusion process using a multi-agent-based modeling of consumers in the artificial social network. Peter Gerlich (University of Vienna, Austria) suggestively recalled and revived the atmosphere of PFL’s teaching activity on the Institute of Advances Studies in Vienna. Antoni Sułek (Institute of Sociology, University of Warsaw, Poland) described the great PFL’s influence on Polish public opinion research and empirical sociology, which went far beyond the borders of Poland. David Morrison (the only invited speaker, University of Leeds, UK) focused on PFL’s networking activity, in particular on the “interconnection between Lazarsfeld’s academic networks and his commercial networks”, and demonstrated, through a case analysis of the establishment first of the Osterreichische Wirtschaftspychologiche

Forschungsstelle and then of the Bureau of Applied Social Research at Columbia University in New York, how such network contacts actually worked. The organisers of the symposium plan to publish a monograph based on the best contributions of participants and other invited authors.

The symposium brought together a group of people concerned with a matter of great importance for sociology, the history of sociology and the methodology of social research.



Conference on the Sociology of the Social Sciences 1945-2010

by Per Wisselgren

In June 2011, a small two days conference on “The Sociology of the Social Sciences 1945-2010” was held in Copenhagen. The conference was organized by a local group of social scientists from University of Copenhagen and Copenhagen Business School – Heine Andersen, Christian Knudsen, Ole Wæver and Kristoffer Kropp – in relation to a Carlsberg-funded research program, aiming at studying the social sciences from a cross-disciplinary sociology of science perspective, with a focus on three social science disciplines – sociology, management studies and international relations – from World War II until today. The STS-oriented approach, Wæver explained in his welcome address, was motivated by three observations: that social scientists often tend to take many mechanisms for granted when they write about their own disciplines; that they make surprisingly little use of their own social science theories in these cases; that research on the social sciences generally has been surprisingly neglected within the field of science and technology studies. Twelve speakers had been invited to present papers, most of which had been distributed in beforehand. The papers were organized in four thematic sessions and a final closing session.

The first session, on “alternative theoretical perspectives”, included three papers which offered different theoretical frames for analyzing the relations both between the

social science disciplines and with society by large.

Michele Lamont presented the introductory chapter to her new book (co-edited with Charles Camic and Neil Gross) *Social Knowledge in the Making* (now published by Chicago University Press). Like the conference organizers she pointed at the apparent lacuna within the field of STS and the need for more systematic, theoretically informed, empirical studies on the multiple kinds of social knowledge production, which are as important as the natural sciences to understand today’s “knowledge societies”. By including thirteen case studies, which all focus on different aspects of the day-to-day activities involved in the practical making of social knowledge, and by identifying issues to be further explored, the volume also intends to set the agenda for future STS-research on the social sciences.

Simon Schwartzman’s paper, “From modernization theory to human rights: The impact of international cooperation on academic outreach in the social sciences”, gave an overview of the science-society relations and the way these have changed in the last decades, with special attention paid to the links between the leading US universities and universities in the developing world, particularly in Latin America.

Christian Knudsen’s paper “The comparative study of intellectual and social structure in the social sciences: Perspectives

from organization studies” was focused on the interface between the fields of organization studies and sociology of science, with special attention paid to what the former could contribute to the latter, by offering a theoretical review of three different approaches within organization studies: the structural contingency approach, the configurational approach and the organizational learning approach.

The second session gathered three papers which were thematically focused on ”disciplinary delineation and segmentation”, i.e. issues regarding the relations between fields and subfields, disciplinary identities and interdisciplinary relations.

George Steinmetz’s paper, “Disciplinary separation and interaction: A case study of activity at the borderlands between sociology and history”, analyzed the relationship between sociology and history in general and the subfield of historical sociology in particular, by employing neo-Bourdieuian field theory, geopolitical categories, and historicist epistemology, and showing how these interdisciplinary relations and the status of historical sociology have changed historically, varied cross-nationally (in the United States, Germany and France, respectively) and would gain from a more developed transdisciplinarity.

Uskali Mäki gave an oral presentation entitled “Disciplinary conventions and interdisciplinary dynamics: The case of economics” which offered a philosophy of the social science approach.

Stefano Guzzini’s paper, “The dual borders of IR: Between science and practical knowledge” complemented with insights on how the discipline of International Relations has been historically shaped by the different ideals of, on the one hand, the practical knowledge of world politics, as propagated by ”the realist school”, and on the other, neopositivist arguments to professionalize the discipline and strengthen its scientific credibility.

The third session on “external structure, policy and financing” consisted of two

papers. The first paper, “The social and political context of the (American) science of International Relations”, authored by Ido Oren, followed up Guzzini’s on the history of International Relations, but now with a more specific focus on the US, by analyzing the discipline’s development in the contexts of the academic institutional setting and American foreign policy.

John Holmwood presented a paper, “Sociology: Fragmented and fading? The impact of external structure, policy and financing”, where he discussed the question about the impact of current research policies in general and on sociology in particular. Drawing on the case of the British RAE-system, Holmwood argued that the current system tends to favour applied research disciplines such as social administration, social policy and social work, whereas traditional, less applied, but in some respects more ”democratic” disciplines such as sociology has been clearly disfavoured – which raises more general questions about, for example, the social mission of public universities.

The fourth session, “the internal structures of the social sciences”, included three papers on the evolution of the internal structures of the social sciences and their reputational hierarchies 1945-2010.

The first paper, “The fragmented adhocracy revisited”, presented by Lars Engwall (and co-authored by Rickard Danell), drew on Richard Whitley’s typology and argued that the discipline of management studies still today – like 25 years ago – could be characterized as a “fragmented adhocracy”, i.e. a discipline where scholars are loosely coupled to their colleagues and have great freedom in their choice of research topics and research methods.

Ole Wæver’s paper, “International Relations as a social and intellectual system”, focused on the development of International Relations by analyzing how the great theoretical debates – between “realism”, liberalism” and “radical Marxism”, “neorealism” vs. “neoliberalism”, “rationalism” vs. “reflexivism” – have

shaped the discipline and may be interpreted in terms of Whitley's "task uncertainty" and "mutual dependence", and by discussing current tendencies towards breaking up the traditional dominance of American IR within the global division of academic labour.

Stephen P. Turner's paper was concerned with "Sociology since 1945" in a broad sense, with a certain focus on the development of American Sociology, but with a concluding comparative discussion about the contextual differences in Britain, France and Germany. By doing that he argued that a number of "external" factors – such as the social and women's movements, influences from neighbouring disciplines, generational aspects and students groups, research policies and changes within the higher education system – have effected the development of the discipline, but that the impact of the American journal system, which has encouraged the strategic formation of specialized groupuscules, probably is even more important to understand the structural patterns of American sociology, in contrast to the disciplinary trajectories in Britain, France

and Germany (with their different publication cultures).

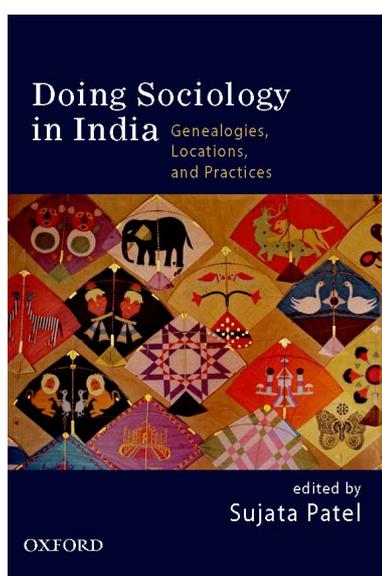
In the closing session, Richard Whitley reflected on "The changing organization of the social sciences: Some consequences of expansion and institutional reform", where he pointed at three organizational trends within current social science: towards reduced cohesiveness and distinctiveness of locally based research schools; reduced theoretical and conceptual diversity; increased internationalization.

Altogether the conference was a very successful and stimulating event. In spite of – or probably due to – the small informal format, the meeting offered plenty of space for interesting discussions. The conference was also very well prepared with pre-circulated papers. The organizers signaled that there are plans to publish a volume based on the conference. That is a brilliant idea, because already the program looked like a synopsis for a much needed book on the sociology of the social sciences in historical perspective. And such a book will, for sure, make better justice to the many qualities of the individual contributions than I have been able to do in this short report.



Recent publications

Below is a list of some recent publications by RCHS members. If you have a new publication out, please let us know, by sending a note to the Secretary! New members are especially encouraged to submit titles of new or fairly recent publications. Books, chapters and articles in any of the official ISA languages will be included as well as in other other languages (but with the titles translated, preferably in English).



Sujata Patel (ed.), *Doing Sociology in India: Genealogies, Locations, and Practices* (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2011).

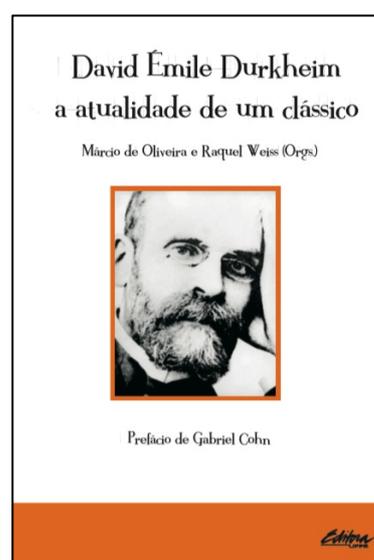
This important volume on the history of sociology in India locates scholars, scholarship, theories, perspectives, and practices of the discipline in different cities and regions of the country over a century. It argues that this history is enmeshed in political projects of constructing a 'society', which took place as a result of colonialism and dominant nationalism.

Doing Sociology in India affirms the existence of both strong and weak traditions of scholarship in India, and underscores three processes that have aided this development at various points of time: reflexive interrogation of received scholarship; probing ideal types of theories within the classroom; and questioning existing debates on society and its language by publics. It suggests that processes outside academia in social movements and associational groups have interrogated mainstream sociology to make it diverse and multiple.

The book has a pan-Indian perspective—it brings together practitioners and interlocutors from various cities and regions to discuss the

many traditions of the discipline. Their arguments are structured around the interplay of three themes—time, space, and power. The Introduction provides an overview of how sociology evolved in India and sets the stage for a nuanced understanding of how these traditions grew and became institutionalized in India.

Contributors: Maitrayee Chaudhuri, D.N. Dhanagare, Anjan Ghosh, Shasheej Hegde, N. Jayaram, Sujata Patel, Sharmila Rege, Edward A. Rodrigues, Manorama Savur, Alito Siqueira, Manish Thakur, Carol Upadhyya, Shiv Visvanathan.



Márcio de Oliveira & Raquel Weiss (Orgs.), *David Émile Durkheim – A Atualidade de um Clássico* [David Émile Durkheim: The Present Relevance of a Classic] (Curitiba: Editora UFPR, 2011).

Who are the Brazilian Durkheimians today? What are their fields of research? These were some of the questions that first instigated us in 2008, when we arranged an international seminar to celebrate the 150 of Durkheim's birth at São

Paulo. It became evident that the interest among both students and researchers in his theory is more intense than one might first have guessed. In 2009 a first book was published, *Durkheim: 150 Anos*, including papers from some of the conferences presented at that occasion, with authors from Brazil and all over the world.

The book we now present, *David Émile Durkheim: A Atualidade de um Clássico* is the result of that initial effort. Its point of departure is simply Durkheim. Durkheim, the chief of school, the methodologist, the philosopher, the political-sociologist. Evidently this book does not include all that has been produced about Durkheim in our country, and that has never been our purpose. But what we do hope is to offer a taste of some new interpretations of this classic by a younger generation of researchers and to keep alive the interest for this author who has such an important place in our “collective representations”.

As can be seen in the list of contents below, the volume includes a preface by Gabriel Cohn, six original articles by Brazilian authors from different universities, and a translation of a text by Durkheim, *L'État*, previously not published in Portuguese. For further information about the book, you can contact the editors by email at marciodeoliveira@ufpr.br and weiss.raquel@gmail.com, respectively.

List of contents (in English):

Preface: Gabriel Cohn

Introduction: *The Present Relevance of Émile Durkheim* (Márcio de Oliveira e Raquel Weiss)

PART ONE: HISTORICAL AND EPISTEMOLOGICAL CONTEXT

A Durkheim's Competitor: René Worms and the Revue Internationale de Sociologie (Márcia Consolim)

Durkheim and Pragmatism: truth, society and individual (Aldo Litaiff and Robert Crépeau)

The Problem of Definition in Durkheim (Alexandre Braga Massella)

PART TWO: POLITICS AND MORALS IN DURKHEIM'S THOUGHT

The State (Émile Durkheim, translated by Márcio de Oliveira)

State and Politics in Durkheim (Márcio de Oliveira)

Émile Durkheim and the Copernican Revolution in the Concept of Morals (Raquel Weiss)

The juridical phenomenon in Émile Durkheim (José Lindomar Coelho Albuquerque)



Christian Fleck & Andreas Hess (eds.), Special issue on "Sociology and communism", *Comparative Sociology*, Vol. 10, No. 5, incl. the following articles:

Fleck, Christian & Hess, Andreas, "Sociology and Communism: Coming to Terms with a Discipline's Past", pp. 670-690.

Outhwaite, William & Ray, Larry, "Prediction and Prophecy in Communist Studies", pp. 691-709.

Davis, Howard & Erofeev, Sergey, "Reframing Society and Culture in Post-Soviet Russia", pp. 710-734.

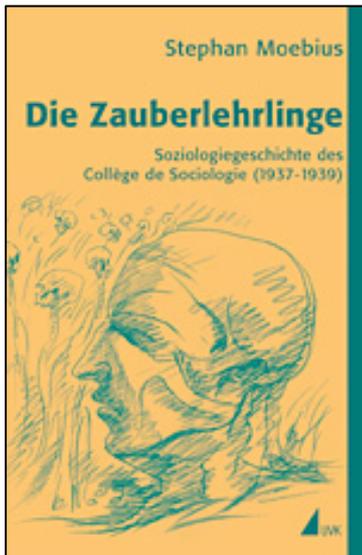
Bielecka-Prus, Joanna, "The Social Roles of Polish Sociologists after 1945", pp. 735-765.

Kiliás, Jaroslaw, "Sociological Traditions in the Polish Textbooks of the Communist Period", pp. 766-780.

Voríšek, Michael, "In whose service? The 1960s' Czechoslovak Sociologists and their Party", pp. 781-806.

Navarro, Juan Jose, "Cold War in Latin America: The Camelot Project (1964-1965) and the Political and Academic Reactions of the Chilean Left", pp. 807-825.

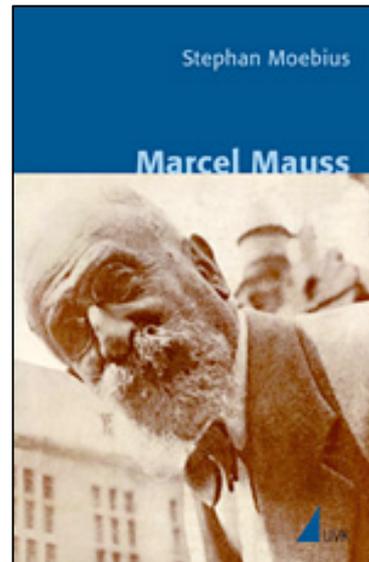




Stephan Moebius, *Die Zauberlehrlinge. Soziologieggeschichte des Collège de Sociologie* [The Sorcerer's Apprentices. The History and Sociology of the College of Sociology] (Konstanz: UVK 2006).

Interwar France in the year 1937: the three intellectuals Georges Bataille, Michel Leiris and Roger Caillois establish the *Collège de Sociologie*. By referring to the works of the Durkheim-School they aim at the revitalization of cultural practices found in so called “primitive” societies within the context of their own culture. In their view, the rediscovery of the “sacred” and the constitution of new “sacral communities” could provide the means to change their crisis-ridden society and to defy fascism. However, internal controversies as well as the outbreak of World War II put an end to the *Collège's* meetings. Yet, despite its short life span the *Collégiens* anticipated contemporary debates like on the risks of individualization. Their influence can be seen in the work of numerous sociologists and philosophers such as Michel Foucault, Jean Baudrillard or Jacques Derrida.

In this work, author Stephan Moebius not only demonstrates the lasting importance of the *Collège de Sociologie* for contemporary sociology but also provides an importance contribution to the history of sociology and the sociology of intellectuals.



Stephan Moebius, *Marcel Mauss* (Konstanz: UVK, 2006).

In the mid 1920s the proverb “Mauss sait tout!” – Mauss knows everything! – was used by Parisian students not only to express their amazement about the enormous learning of the French sociologist and anthropologist. It also referred to the fact that Mauss was regarded as the real head of the Durkheim-School after Durkheim’s death in 1917.

With this work, Stephan Moebius delivers a concise and generally understandable introduction into the social and cognitive dimensions of Mauss’ work as well as into Mauss’ impact on the social and cultural sciences.



Stephan Moebius & Georg Kneer (Eds.): *Soziologische Kontroversen. Beiträge zu einer anderen Geschichte der Wissenschaft vom Sozialen* [Sociological Controversies. Contributions to another history of the social sciences] (Frankfurt/M.: Suhrkamp).

Sociology does not derive its identity from a general interest in a certain question nor from a shared paradigm or the historical succession of different hegemonic approaches. Instead, substantial debates and controversies on the conceptual, theoretical, and methodological foundations of the discipline constitute its very identity.

The articles in this volume discuss the defining debates within the history of sociology such as the “positivism dispute”, the *Werturteilsstreit*, the controversy on the sociology of knowledge, or the debates around “postmodernity”.



Stephan Moebius, *Kultur. Einführung in die Kultursoziologie* [Culture. Introduction to Cultural Sociology] 2nd Edition 2010 (Bielefeld: Transcript Verlag).

Today, “culture” constitutes an interdisciplinary key-concept in the social sciences. While it was already discussed intensively around 1900, it was in the wake of the “cultural turn” that it became the central concept of the social sciences and the humanities – which, in turn, consider themselves more and more as “cultural sciences”.

Stephan Moebius’ introduction to cultural sociology – the first published in German – provides a comprehensive overview of the history of cultural sociology as well as of its key-concepts, approaches and research fields reaching from the classics to contemporary approaches such as the visual, governmentality or cultural studies.



Call for papers

Symposium: “New and Old Founders in the Social Sciences: Historical Instruments of Discipline Formation” Utrecht, the Netherlands, February 24-25, 2012

The relationship between the past and future within the social sciences has a certain element of magic about it. As if in an Orwellian sense, one could change the

future by rewriting the past. But should we really expect that scholars who turn to their disciplinary histories lose their cherished principles of rigor and reflective awareness?

Perhaps the only reason we are no longer amazed by social scientists turning to the spells of history is the fact that we are so used to it. Whenever we hear of attempts to reform or revolutionize the social sciences, we can securely expect the advocates of change to passionately speak of disciplinary history, of past heroes who were unforgivably forgotten, badly misunderstood, or grossly overrated. A fresh look at the “politics of founders” will be the focus of the symposium.

More than half a century ago Alvin Gouldner argued that a debate over a “founding father” usually signifies “a dispute over the character of the profession”. George Stocking echoed this statement by criticizing social science historiography as a mere extension of theoretical competition and condemning the practice of claiming “putative founders” for legitimization purposes. From then on, we have witnessed ever more heated and elaborate discussions surrounding “presentism” and “historicism”. The question is whether and how growing historiographical awareness has modified the rhetoric of history and the search for founders, which are still very much with us in the 21st century.

In February 2012, Utrecht University and the European Society for the History of the

Human Sciences (ESHHS) will host a symposium, during which novel appropriations of historical figures for new disciplinary purposes will be discussed by a team of young scholars (PhD’s at different European and US universities). The expert meeting is presided by Ruud Abma, Jaap Bos (both on the board of ESHHS) and Adomas Pūras (project coordinator, MA student at the Descartes Centre for the History and Philosophy of the Sciences and Humanities). The symposium will also be attended by Prof. Peter Baehr, president of ISA RCHS and author of *Founders, Classics and Canons: Modern Disputes over the Origins and Appraisal of Sociology’s Heritage*.

New heroes are chosen, old ones are transformed, as scholars struggle to set enduring guidelines for the new century. The meeting (to be followed by a publication) will provide a much needed reflection on the historical instruments of discipline formation and should provoke much discussion.

We are interested in papers exploring new discourses on “founders” as ways to promote new perspectives and disciplinary identities. For more information, please contact Adomas Pūras by e-mail: a.puras@students.uu.nl.



RCHS Interim Conference
"CHANGING UNIVERSITIES: CHANGING SOCIOLOGY"
University College Dublin, 27-30 June 2012

Modern universities are experiencing radical changes at all levels and in all countries and cultures. It is timely to consider the impact of these changes on the discipline of sociology. Is there a general, maybe, even universal trend at work? Can any particular or unique developments be detected? If so, what role do cultures, states and national peculiarities play in these developments? And how do they affect sociological traditions? This conference will engage with these and related questions, both in the context of sociology’s past and the challenges it faces in modern times.

Invited keynote speakers: Professor Andrew Abbott (Sociology, University of Chicago), “World Sociology: The View from Atlantis”, and Professor Daniel Gordon (History, University of Massachusetts), “New Disciplines, New Indulgences: The University Since 1945”.

Provisional Conference Time-Table

All sessions and presentations will take place in the **Clinton Auditorium, University College Dublin**. The Welcome Address and the two main speeches by our invited guests will be delivered in the **main auditorium**; the parallel sessions will take place in the **two adjunct seminar rooms** and in the **School of Sociology seminar room** (Newman Building, 5 min from the Clinton Auditorium).

Wednesday, 27 June 2012

- 12.00-14.00 *Registration*
14.00-15.30 **General Information Session and Welcome Address** (RCHS President, RCHS Secretary, Local Conference Organizing Committee)
15.30-16.00 *Coffee Break*
16.00-18.00 **Sessions 1, 2 and 3**
18.00-19.30 **Invited Speaker**
19.30 *Wine Reception at UCD Common Room*

Thursday, 28 June 2012

- 09.00-10.30 **Sessions 4, 5 and 6**
10.30-11.00 *Coffee Break*
11.00-12.30 **Roundtable Session**
12.30-14.00 *Lunch*
14.00-15.30 **Invited Speaker**
15.30-16.00 *Coffee Break*
16.00-17.30 **Sessions 7, 8 and 9**

Friday, 29 June 2012

- 09.00-10.30 **Sessions 10, 11 and 12**
10.30-11.00 *Coffee Break*
11.00-12.30 **Author meets Critics**
12.30-14.00 *Lunch*
14.00-15.30 **Sessions 13, 14 and 15**
15.30-16.00 *Coffee Break*
16.00-17.30 **Sessions 16 and 17**
17.30-19.00 **ISA-RCHS Business Meeting**
20.00 *Conference Dinner: Chester Beatty Library (behind Dublin Castle)*

Saturday, 30 June 2012

- 10.00-12.00 *Conference Tour(s) (alternatively Guinness Storehouse or Croke Park/GAA Museum and Stadium Tour)*

General Conference Information

Conference website

The conference website has now been launched. You will find it at: www.isarchs2012.com. The website will be updated in two steps. The first update will be after **January 10**, when we have reviewed all additional proposals that have been submitted until then. The registration for the conference will open more or less at the same time, early in 2012. The second update will be after **March 31**, when the final programme will be settled.

Guess-estimates for Conference Fee (excluding UCD accommodation/hotel and travel)

Minimum costs (incl. Conference fee, Lunch/Coffee) for the three days: €100,-

Maximum costs (incl. conference fee, lunches and coffee breaks plus alternatives wine reception, conference dinner at/or the Chester Beatty Library and/or Guinness Storehouse or Croke Park tour): €130,-/170/ 200,-

Please note that there are plenty of other exciting things to do while visiting Dublin (Dublin Writers Museum, Dublin Pub Crawl, Joyce Museum, Kilmainham Prison, Books of Kells and Trinity Long Hall). Most of them are within a short bus ride from UCD campus and can be reached by foot when in the city center.

Important Accommodation info

On-campus accommodation at UCD is available. For information and bookings check out this link:

<http://ucd.globalenginemediacom/Conference2?conf=CUCS>

We will also reserve some limited hotel accommodation for two hotels which are both within walking distance to the conference facility, the Radisson Hotel and Stillorgan Park Hotel. Please also check the Failte Ireland website, which will allow you to book individual B&B accommodation. More information concerning accommodation will be provided on the conference website at a later stage.

Please note: While the conference organisers provide visitors with information regarding accommodation we take no responsibility for individual hotel, B&B or On-campus bookings.

RCHS and ISA memberships

Participants should be members of the Research Committee on the History of Sociology (RCHS). It is also encouraged that participants join the International Sociological Association (ISA). The annual RCHS subscription is US dollars 10 for one year or 30 for 4 years. For students or non OECD-residents who can not afford to pay the full rate it is US dollars 5 per year or 15 for 4 years. The ISA membership registration form is available at: http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb_i/index.htm. If you prefer to become an affiliated member of the RCHS only, please contact the secretary for further details: per.wisselgren@soc.umu.se.

Contact

Should there be any further questions regarding the conference or the memberships, please do not hesitate to contact the local organiser Andreas Hess at a.hess@ucd.ie or the RCHS secretary at per.wisselgren@soc.umu.se.

Updated list of parallel sessions and extended call for papers

Please observe that the current list of sessions below is only provisional. This means that some of the sessions most probably will be expanded into double sessions, whereas others may be merged when we settle the final programme. It should also be emphasized that the numbering of the

sessions below is only temporary and does *not* correspond to the numbers in the provisional programme above.

There is still space for a restricted number of papers in some of the sessions. If you are interested in presenting a paper in one of these sessions, please submit your paper proposal, including an abstract of 150-200 words, to the session convener and *with copies* to both the local organiser Andreas Hess (a.hess@ucd.ie) and the secretary Per Wisselgren (per.wisselgren@soc.umu.se).

We will review proposals in two steps until the program is full. By **January 10** we will review all proposals which have been submitted until then and specify the programme and update the conference website accordingly. The final programme will be settled after **March 31**, and published both on the conference website and in the next issue of the Newsletter, including all abstracts.

1. History of Sociology in Ireland (Convenor: Andreas Hess: a.hess@ucd.ie)

In this session we look at Irish sociology and its changing publics: first in the 19th century as a kind of prototype sociology supporting the semi-colonial structures, then in the 20th Century serving first the emerging Irish State after independence and then the Catholic Church, and finally towards the end of the 20th century, serving a mix of mainly policy-interested institutions.

Accepted papers:

- * Peter Murray, "Catholic Ecclesiastical Censorship and Social Thought in Ireland, 1922-1955"
- * Delma Byrne, "The Development of Sociology of Education in Ireland".
- * Eamonn Slater, "Marx on Ireland: The best kept secret in Irish Sociology".
- * Bryan J Fanning, "Friedrich Engels and the Crisis of Irish Character".
- * Jane Gray, "TBA".
- * Tina Kelly, "TBA"

2. Changes in Higher Education and Changes in Sociology (Convenor: Andreas Hess: a.hess@ucd.ie)

What is the relationship between the radical changes that we can observe in higher education on a global scale and sociology as a discipline? How exactly can we study the impact that changes at the universities have on the discipline? Are there any specific cultural, national or continental dimensions to these changes?

Accepted papers:

- * Uri Ram, "Between Nationalism and Capitalism: Sociology and the Academia in Israel"
- * Marcia Consolim: "Between education and instruction (or "moral" and "science"): the École des hautes études sociales (EHES)"
- * Fran Collyer: "Knowledge, Institutions, Prestige and Power"
- * Barbara Hoenig, "European Union's Science Policy and its Impact on Sociology: Changing Territorial Boundaries and Supra-National Institutions in the European Research Area".

3. General session on the history of sociology (Convenor: Per Wisselgren: per.wisselgren@soc.umu.se)

Accepted papers:

- * E. Stina Lyon, "From literature to sociology: The shock of Celine's literary style and Viola Klein's attempt to understand it (with a little help from Karl Mannheim)".
- * Andreas Hess "Gustave de Beaumont's Letters from Cannes and the first Tocqueville Biography".
- * Peter Baehr, "Two Humanisms: Andrew Abbott's and Peter Berger's Contrasting Accounts of Sociology's Moral Framework"

4. Conceptual Histories I: Who is a "Public Intellectual"? (Convenor: Sven Eliaeson: Sven.Eliaeson@ucrs.uu.se)

Social science/thought is a battlefield for concept formation, and some concepts will survive and some will evaporate. Socrates was a public intellectual, and the same is true of Jesus, Rousseau, Voltaire, and Gandhi. The concept has become trendy and often refers to a huge variation of personalities in various ambiances, including Richard Sennett, Ulrich Beck, Anthony Giddens, Noam Chomsky and Jürgen Habermas. Lists of the hundred most renowned public intellectuals are published after polls. Burawoy (2003) caused a debate about the role and function of public intellectuals. However, there is no ideal type or taxonomy of public intellectuals, which remains an amorphous concept, albeit always somehow related to the relation between the intellectuals and power.

Accepted papers:

- * Iván Eliab Gómez, "The Public Intellectual: The Tension Between Social Sciences and Ideology in Mexico".

5. Conceptual Histories II: What is Political Sociology? (Convenor: Sven Eliaeson: Sven.Eliaeson@ucrs.uu.se)

Social thought is a battlefield for concept formation, and some concepts will survive and some will evaporate. One only has to look at the content of syllabuses on courses in political sociology to realize that it is far from clear what the label refers to. It might deal with elites, voting behaviours, intellectuals, power distribution, economic sociology, inclusion-exclusion, etc. Max Weber, Parsons and S. M. Lipset are on most lists, so are Juan Linz and Robert Putnam, and bundles of studies of "civil society". Stein Rokkan's cleavages and stages are very important tools for comparing transformation processes. Yet, global trends and the implosion of the "Second world" generate a certain space for innovative endeavours. In an increasingly global world changed social realities call for new conceptual tools.

Accepted papers:

- * Teruhito Sako, "Mining the Leviathan from E-Text: An Innovation in Terminological Analysis".

6. Sociological Traditions in the Global South (Convenor: Joao Marcelo Ehlert Maia: Joao.Maia@fgv.br)

The history of European and North American sociologies are well known in the social science community, ultimately, as "the history of sociology". However, we still do not know much about peripheral traditions of social thought, which are usually regarded as mere consumers and applicants of northern sociologies. This session welcomes research that observes and analyzes

intellectual traditions of the so-called Global South. We are especially keen to discuss transnational approaches that explore alternative circuits of intellectual communication (both South-South and South-North intellectual networks), together with studies on a national or regional scale.

Accepted papers:

* José Henrique Bortoluci, "Brazilian Dialectical Marxism and the search for the specificity of peripheral societies".

* Joao Marcelo Ehlert Maia, "The transnational language of autonomy in the Global South: The works of A. Guerreiro Ramos and S. Hussein Alatas".

* Manuela Boatcă & Guilherme Leite Gonçalves, "Upsetting (to) the Theory of Stages: Critiques from the East and the South of Marxist Thought".

7. Cold War Social Science (Convenor: Christian Dayé: ch.daye@uni-graz.at)

The recent years have seen an increasing interest in the role social scientists and social scientific knowledge played in shaping political strategies during the Cold War. Especially in the U.S., but also in Western Europe and in other countries, social scientists contributed to decision-making and advised the powers that be. This was, at least for some observers, a historically new situation for the social sciences. As C. Wright Mills put it in *The Sociological Imagination*, social scientists have "for the first time in the history of their disciplines ... come into professional relationship with private and public powers well above the level of the welfare agency and the county agent." In Mills' view, this resulted in a profound change in the orientation and the societal position of social sciences: "Their positions change – from the academic to the bureaucratic; their publics change – from movements of reformers to circles of decision-makers; and their problems change – from those of their own choice to those of their clients."

However tendentious and at the same time simplifying Mills' perspective upon the history of social sciences is, it opens up several potential lines of inquiry for historians of sociology. Papers in this session explore the relation between the social sciences and the Cold War, investigate the latter's influence on the character of contemporary social science, deal with the supposed consequences of social scientific theories or empirical findings for the conflict policy of the involved actors, or elucidate in other ways interesting intellectual trajectories.

Accepted papers:

* Patricia Vannier: "France-Bulgaria: a western and eastern sociological exchanges history during the Cold War".

* Matthias Duller: "History of Sociology in Socialist Yugoslavia".

* Christian Dayé, "Methods of Cold War Social Science: The Development of Political Gaming and Delphi Techniques as Means of Investigating Futures".

* Albert Tzeng, "Cold War Geopolitics and the Dispersion of Sociological Knowledge: Scholar Migration and US Grant in Taiwan and Hong Kong"

8. Classic Inspirations for Social Research Methodology (Convenor: Hynek Jerabek: hynek.jerabek@gmail.com)

Our objective is to examine major research projects in the history of empirical social research and look at specific models and examples of very well-executed research projects in order to show how projects from the past can serve as a source of inspiration for current research practices. The

aim of this systematic historical analysis is to confront the current practice of sociological research with its epistemological, theoretical, and methodological principles and preconditions. More specifically, we would like to discuss examples of the survey analysis approach and the influence of methodological innovations on advanced methods of data analysis. The session will also examine good examples of mixed research design of combined qualitative and quantitative analyses, as well as examples of so-called firehouse projects or some other excellent research design. We will discuss various aspects of what R. B. Smith has called “cumulative social science”. The approaches discussed view the history of sociology from an unusual point of view and in contrast to the common approach to the history of sociology, which so far has mostly been guided by the history of theoretical ideas (Platt 1996).

Accepted papers:

- * Jan Balon, ”The Unfulfilled Promise of Unified Sociology: The Case of Harvard and Columbia Departments”.
- * Hynek Jerabek, ”Paul Felix Lazarsfelds’ Methodological Inspirations for Contemporary Social Research”.
- * Tomáš Holeček, “Mathematics of Survey Research”.
- * Jiri Remr, “Utilization-focused Approach in Lazarsfeldian research activities”.

9. Transatlantic Dialogues after 1945 (Convenors: Uta Gerhardt & Cherry Schrecker: gerhardt.uta@t-online.de; Cherry.Schrecker@univ-nancy2.fr)

Reciprocal influence between European and North American sociologists and sociology has been an issue of fascinating – and by far not exhausted – debates that have been largely focused on the period preceding the end of the Second World War. Equally important, however, is the following half-century until our own time.

If American sociology was predominant during the 1950s and beyond, the 1960s swept away some of what – sometimes wrongly – was considered docile scholarship emulating American sociology. Thus the 1960s were a turning point when the critical nature of the reception of much of American social theory and social research became obvious. Whilst many European scholars were keen to learn and apply what had been achieved in America in the years when Europe was in limbo, the younger sociologists refused to submit to American standards and ideas. They had a different agenda, which was to create theory of their own. At the same time, European scholarship was being discovered in the United States, so that a two-way passage of sociological thought resulted as from the 1970s.

The various countries are a social and political context for understanding and interpreting theories and ideas, which have most certainly evolved over time. A short, and certainly not exhaustive, list of potential themes for discussion runs as follows: People and their works; individual publications and the ways in which they developed on a transatlantic basis; concepts and ideas (such as social structure, science, democracy or power) and their application and development over time and between countries; theoretical perspectives and their development; methodological practice and development.

Accepted papers:

- * Christopher Schlembach, “Dear Parsons, Dear Voegelin – Converging lines of theorizing in the correspondence between Talcott Parsons and Eric Voegelin”.
- * Suzie Guth, ”Back from the US: the renewal of French sociology (G.Gurvitch)”.

* Jean-Marc Leveratto, "Common Pleasure and «Distinction». The Birth of the French Sociology of Culture and the Resistance against the Americanization of Culture".

* Yann Renisio, "On the French importation of Howard Becker and Michèle Lamont disagreements about the National Science Foundation".

* Cherry Schrecker, "The Social Construction of Reality: a transatlantic melting pot".

* Uta Gerhardt, "Lost in Translation: From Parsons's Symbolic Media of Communication to Habermas's Communicative Action".

10. Sociology of religion and religious sociologies (Convenor: Marcel Fournier: marcel.fournier@umontreal.ca)

Marking the centennial of Durkheim's *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life* (1912) we will discuss both the contributions made by Catholic sociology and other 'religious' sociologies

Accepted papers:

* Stephan Moebius & Frithjof Nungesser, "The Elementary Forms as a collective work? Marcel Mauss' contribution to Emile Durkheim's later sociology of religion".

* Diego Pereyra, "Teaching and research of sociology at the Catholic University in Buenos Aires. An infrequent critical history (1959-1987)".

11. Journals, publishers and publication practices and their role in discipline formation (Convenors: Christian Fleck & E. Stina Lyon: christian.fleck@uni-graz.at; estina.lyon@lsbu.ac.uk)

This session aims to address questions regarding the role of scholarly journals, publishing houses and publication practices in the development and definition of discipline fields and specialisations. Specialist journals exercise a particular function in defining an "expert" community. Publishing houses, on the other hand, also aim to reach a broader audience of interested readers who at particular periods of history thus help shape both academic reputations and what is seen as important in a field. The session also aims to examine examples of the impact of particular journals or publishers on particular scholars and networks, nationally or internationally. It is hoped the session will foster discussions of inferences that might be drawn about the impact on social science in general and sociology in particular of technologically and economically changing publication practices.

Accepted papers:

* Raf Vanderstraeten, "History and/or sociology of science".

* Jennifer Platt, "The International Library of Sociology and Social Reconstruction and British sociology".

* Rafael Schögler, "Structural Influences on the Translation Practices of Weber's Protestant Ethic".

* Juan Martín Bonacci, "Sociologist, institutions and publication practices in the early years of Argentina's democratic recovery (1984-1995)".

* Erwin Stolz, "The inner life of the *Archiv für Sozialwissenschaft und Sozialpolitik*: A social network analysis approach".

* Charles Crothers, "The Development of Sociology's System of Journals".

* Daniel R. Huebner, "Scholarly Publishing Projects in the Great Depression as Cases of the Economic Structuring of Knowledge".

12. Dialogues between Asian and Western sociologies (Convenor: Kiyomitsu Yui: k-yui@cf7.so-net.ne.jp)

Accepted papers:

* Naoki Iso, "Max Weber in Japan and in France : Comparative study on the interpretations of Wertfreiheit"

13. History of empirical social research and statistics (Convenor: Irmela Gorges: I.Gorges@gmx.de)

Accepted papers:

* Kaat Louckx, "The construction of the governable person. The socially excluded in the Belgian population censuses from 1846-1930".

* Jan Marsalek, "Epistemology of Error: The Latent Class Analysis Case".

14. History of conflict sociology (Convenor: Suzie Guth: rets.guth@wanadoo.fr)

Contributions may address the history of the sociology of conflict via any of the three following areas of interest:

1. *Conflict as an object*: Selecting a conflict issue and focusing on it, may reveal the existence of diverse types of conflict. Which type of conflict are we to examine, and why? Is there a prevailing type of conflict favored by sociologists? Is there a specific kind of conflict which has become part of the sociological tradition? Are there different national traditions in the sociology of conflict (Irish, Belgian, French, Spanish, German)? Is there a European tradition which can be contrasted with the US tradition? Since conflict is polyvalent and has a specific dynamic, would it not be useful to envisage it as an interdisciplinary object? This approach might bring attention to new dimensions for the understanding of conflict via concepts imported from other areas? Conflict belongs to an ever rewritten story, thus it has become a polysemic object which applies to different dimensions of the individual and of society, to arts and literature.

2. *Conflict theory*: From Georg Simmel to Gaston Bouthoul, from Max Weber to Theodor Caplow the list of the theorists is a long one. Julien Freund, Carl Schmitt, Erich Fromm, Johan Galtung, Raymond Aron, Ralf Dahrendorf and Pangiotis Kondylis and many others have contributed to the conflict theory of chaos and downfall, along with concepts such as socialization, the friend and foe relation, the tertius gaudens role or game theory or belligerence and the unconscious in society.

3. *The ways in which conflict has been studied*: Conflict might be apprehended either via an institution or through biographical turning points. It has been the focus of American and British community studies either in rural or urban areas and social networks. Gangs and mob studies, social movements are specific areas in which to study conflict and violence in society. The sociology of conflict stresses the study of violent clashes, seen as ways of scattering and differentiating society. Violence is seen as an everyday fact, a means of fragmentation in more and more integrated and complex social networks.

Accepted papers:

- * Myriam Klinger, "French polemology versus conflict sociology" (paper in French with a short translation into English).
- * Pascal Hintermeyer, "Sacrifice and will for power through terrorist action".
- * Suzie Guth, professor emeritus, "Conflict in American Community studies: From Middletown to Yankee City".
- * Panagiotis Christias, "Panajotis Kondylis: a new paradigm".
- * Gilles Verpraet, "The Conflict sociology and the forms of cultural conflict: Filiation and diversification inside the French-American connexion".

15. National trajectories in the history of sociology (Convenor: Hedvig Ekerwald: Hedvig.Ekerwald@soc.uu.se)

Accepted papers:

- * Fran Collyer, "Institutional Development, Sociological Knowledge, Disciplinarity and Identity: A Study of Three Countries".
- * Celia C Winkler: "The Montana Study and Postwar Epistemological Transitions".
- * Charles Crothers (& Jennifer Platt?), "Travelling Theories, Travelling Theorists".

16. Sociology and its public relations (Convenor: Albert Tzeng: p.w.tzeng@gmail.com)

Accepted papers:

- * Kristoffer Kropp, "Problems choice and epistemological styles: Social Sciences in the Space of Power".
- * Albert Tzeng, "Public Sociology in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore: Critical Mass, Intellectual Tradition and Institutional Context".
- * Per Wisselgren, "Not too many women, but too few men?: On the (en)gendering of early academic social science and its publics".

17. The politics of academic dependency in the Periphery: African, Asian and Latin American Sociology in a comparative perspective (Convenor: Fernanda Beigel: mfbeigel@mendoza-conicet.gob.ar)

In this session we would like to discuss the historical structure of academic dependence from a comparative perspective in order to assess the historical conditions of the intellectual and institutional development of Sociology in different regions of the global South. The notion of academic dependence refers to the unequal structure of production and circulation of knowledge within the international scientific system. However, from the perspective of the periphery, academic dependence cannot be understood merely as a vertical bond that binds active producers and passive reproducers together. Even though knowledge produced in peripheral communities has low rates of circulation within the international academic system, this doesn't imply that this production is – or always has been – the result of a massive import of foreign concepts and resources. The differences between subaltern fields and central academies don't lie in the lack of national boundaries or endogenous thinking, but in the historical instability that has extended or contracted institutional autonomy and/or academic dependence, mainly through the changing role of the state and the politicization and the relation between research and teaching in higher education systems.

Accepted papers:

- * Sujata Patel, "Academic dependency structures and critical social science: The Indo-Dutch Programme for Alternatives in Development (IDPAD), 1970-2008"
- * Gastón Julián Gil. "Politics, Academy, and National Reality. Controversy spaces in Argentinean social sciences during the decade of 1960".
- * José Guadalupe Gandarilla, "Pablo Gonzalez Casanova, From the Sociology of Exploitation to Sociology of Complex Capitalism: The power of autonomies in politics and in the intellectual creation"
- * Karina Bidaseca: "Mujerdeltercermundo: Femicidio y guerras poscoloniales en la intersección entre colonialidad/imperialismo/capitalismo global" (The Third World Women: Femicide and post-colonial wars in the intersection between colonialism / imperialism / global capitalism)
- * Ayokunle Olumuyiwa Omobowale, "Peripheral Sociology and the Challenge of Knowledge Domestication in Nigeria".



Announcement of the RCHS Young Scholar's Prize

In relation to the forthcoming Interim Conference in Dublin, the RCHS is pleased to announce – for the second time (the first time was in relation to the World Congress in Gothenburg) – the RCHS Young Scholar's Prize. The aim of the prize is to encourage research among younger scholars within the RCHS field. Eligible are papers accepted to the coming RCHS Interim Conference in Dublin. Authors should be in the early stages of their careers, i.e. they should be either PhD candidates or their PhD degrees should not be older than three years (the degree should have been awarded 2009 or later). The prize committee will consist of three jury members – Irmela Gorges (chair), E. Stina Lyon and Cherry Schrecker – and the winner of the prize (€500) will be announced by the jury at the RCHS Business Meeting in Dublin.

Submissions to the RCHS Young Scholars Prize, including the paper and a short CV, should be sent via email (and entitled "RCHS Prize" in the subject line) to the RCHS secretary (per.wisselgren@soc.umu.se) no later than **May 31, 2012**. The Secretary will forward all submitted contributions to the jury members directly after the deadline.



Other forthcoming ISA events

**"Social Justice and Democratization",
The Second ISA Forum of Sociology,
Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 1-4,
2012.**

For more info please see the conference website: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/>

**"Facing an Unequal World: Challenges
for Global Sociology", XVIII ISA World
Congress of Sociology, Yokohama,
Japan, 13-19 July 2014.**

For more information, see the official website: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/>. More info will come in the forthcoming issues of this Newsletter.

How to become a member of the RCHS

Membership in the RCHS is open to anyone interested in the field. You become a member as soon as your application has been accepted and dues have been received by the Secretary. Membership dues are payable either through the ISA website (<https://secured.com/~f3641/formisa.htm>) or to the local RCHS bank account (details below).

The basic RCHS subscription is US\$10 for one year, or \$30 for 4 years. For students, however, it is \$5 or \$15. This reduced rate also applies to others from non-OECD countries who cannot afford to pay the full rate. If unable to arrange even the reduced rate, please write to the Secretary to explain the circumstances and ask for free membership.

RCHS is a Research Committee of the ISA, so RCHS members are expected to be ISA members. The ISA membership registration form is available on <https://secured.com/~f3641/formisa.htm>. There is also now a new facility for paying directly with credit card to the central ISA; further details are available from the ISA website.

If you are not an ISA member you should pay your membership fees directly into the new RCHS bank account and by additionally notifying the secretary via e-mail: per.wisselgren@soc.umu.se or via post: Per Wisselgren, Department of Sociology, Umeå University, SE-901 87 Umeå, SWEDEN. Please do NOT send cheques since extra charges apply.

The RCHS bank account is now – since October 2010 – located in Sweden. Banking details:

ISA RCHS
c/o Per Wisselgren

Swedbank

BIC: SWEDSESS

IBAN: SE03 8000 0842 0292 3265 1928

(For payments within Sweden: Clearing number: 8420-4; Bank account number: 923 265 192-8)

If there are any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary Per Wisselgren: per.wisselgren@soc.umu.se



RCHS Newsletter

RCHS Newsletter is produced twice a year, usually in November and May. In addition to conference reports and information about upcoming events and meetings it also includes lists of members and their addresses, details of new members and their special interests, information about new publications by members, news and notes about such matters as archives, conferences of other bodies, book recommendations, members' work in progress, members' moves and promotions, and obituaries. The purpose is 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.

Next issue of the Newsletter is scheduled for May 2012.

Deadline for submissions: 30 April 2012.