

RC14

Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture

November 2013
Number 7



NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Isleide Arruda Fontenelle
Fundação Getulio Vargas – São Paulo, Brazil | isleide.fontenelle@fgv.br

Newsletter



THE LETTER OF RC14 PRESIDENT

Almost ready for our forthcoming ISA 18th World Congress in Yokohama!

The time approaches for the XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology on “Facing an Unequal World: Challenges for Global Sociology” to be held in Yokohama, Japan – 13-19 July, 2014.

The Research Committee on Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture, (RC14) is participating with **18 sessions** (including 3 joint sessions under RC14 organizational responsibility) having as main theme, **Culture and Communication in Today's Unequal World**.

As it is known RC14 has established since the Barcelona Forum an interesting originality: the specific language sessions (either in English, French or Spanish -the three ISA official languages not altogether mixed up as it is often the case in ISA events); we thought that in this way, the best possible scientific communication among the registered participants, could be achieved.

Many interesting abstracts have been received and we look forward to make all possible effort for the best sessions' organization (the final program will be ready in May: meanwhile, letters of acceptance will be sent by sessions' organizers in early December).

It is also to be reminded to our members and to all the accepted participants to think of registration to the congress; this is an ISA rule (not depending from us) : **only registered people can participate to the congress. And please think of becoming an RC14 member: the number of sessions attributed to each Research Committee, depends on the number of its' regular members (it is thus interesting to be able to give “forum” to a bigger number of colleagues); being a member is also an essential condition in order to participate to the RC14 Business Meeting and the RC elections for the board.**

Meanwhile, we try to be “regionally” active organizing the so called midterm (among two congresses) conferences and other scientific activities; information concerning the midterm international conference in Athens (Greece) in May 26th to 28th 2011, on *Culture and Barbarism: Communication and Contemporary Society*, and the RC14 sessions of Buenos Aires (Argentina) in August 1st to 4th on *Justice and Democracy in the Contemporary Culture*, has already been given in former RC14 Newsletters; we present in this bulletin, information on the Conference on *Social and Political Transformations in Today's Societies in Crisis: Local, Regional and Global Dimensions* held in Odessa (Ukraine) on September 2013; and news on another forthcoming midterm RC14 conference to be held in Athens in January 2014 on *Power and Media: Socio Anthropology of the Contemporary Politics*; and of course other relevant news that might interest sociologists working on Culture and Communication issues.

Expressing all the RC14 board team, I hope that the RC14 sessions at the **XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology** will be big success; we all work for it; our forthcoming Newsletter in May 2014, will be especially dedicated to the forthcoming congress.

Looking forward to meet you all in Yokohama!

Christiana Constantopoulou Professor of Sociology, Panteion University, RC14 President and RC14 Program Coordinator for the Forthcoming ISA Congress, christiana.constantopoulou@panteion.gr



Announcements

1. News concerning the RC14 activities over the world

THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE ODESSA STUDIES ON SOCIAL SCIENCES - *Social and Political transformations in today's societies in crisis: local, regional and global dimensions*

The Institute of Social Sciences of Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University, the South-Ukrainian Department of Sociological Association of Ukraine and ISA-RC 14 "Sociology of Communication, Knowledge & Culture" organized on **September 27th and 28th 2013** the Sixth International Scientific Conference *ODESSA STUDIES ON SOCIAL SCIENCES* on ***Social and Political transformations in today's societies in crisis: local, regional and global dimensions***; many scholars (135) from Belarus, France, Georgia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Russia and of course Ukraine, participated in the conference.

The conference was opened by the speeches of Professor Igor Koval - Rector of Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University and Victor Glebov - Associate Professor & Director of the Institute of Social Sciences and the greetings of Olivier Chantraine, Professor of LILLE 3 (France) – Secretary General of RC14. Many interesting themes were presented in the plenary sessions such as: *Social and communicative factors of re (figuration) of contemporary societies* (by Dr VI. Kozlovsky –Head of the Department of Sociology of Culture and Communication of the Sociological Faculty of St. Petersburg' State University, Russia); *Ukraine and Belarus: strategy of social and political transformation in the conditions of crisis* (by Dr L. Titarenko Professor of Sociology Department of Belarus State University, Minsk, Belarus); *Europeanization of Asylum Policy* (by Dr. L. Mažilis Professor of the Faculty of Political Sciences and Diplomacy, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania); *Dynamics of political transformations on post-Soviet space: aims and models of transit* (by Dr. O. Brusylowska, **Professor of the International Relations Department, the Institute of Social Sciences of Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University, Ukraine**).

Many workshops were organized during the 27th and 28th of September on the following themes:

- *Genesis, Development, Theory & Scenarios of Crisis in Transitive Society* (Coordinators: Pobeda Nelli, Lisitsa Nadezhda, Khudenko Andriy);
- *Educational Transformations and Modernization in postmodern age* (Coordinators: Podolskaya Elizaveta., Kamenska Tetyana, Doveyko Oleksandr);
- *Everyday Life Anthropology: Traditional and Alternative Life Practices in the Age of Social Transformations* (Coordinators: Knyazeva Olena, Yatvetska Anna);
- *Social Policy and Social Work in the Transition Society* (Coordinators: Gansova Emma, Otreshko Nataliya);
- *Transformation of the Social Ties, Relations and Communications in Global & Local Dimensions* (Coordinators: Sergeeva Olga, Lychkovska Oksana);
- *Socio-Cultural, National & Territorial Identities & Practices in a Changing Society: Global & Regional Context* (Coordinators: Onischook Vitaliy, Kononov Ilya, Uzun Iuliia);
- *Anthropology of Power in Transitive Society: Changes' Tendencies & Adaptive Practices* (Coordinators: Poltorak Vladimir, Liseenko Olena, Popkov Vasylly);
- *International Relations & Foreign Policy of the Central & Eastern Europe' States in the Age of Global Crisis* (Coordinator: Brusylowska Olga);

The Conference works finished with the **Public lecture-discussion of Dr. Gérard Wormser**, professor of “École Normale Supérieure de Lyon”, Lyon 2, the founder & the general editor of the digital journal “**Sens Public**” (**Paris-Lyon, France**) on the subject “*Do digital media really contribute to the democratic process?*” (meant also as a course for the 4th year students of specialties “Political sciences”, “Sociology” & “International Relations” and “Journalism” of Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University).

Papers of participants were published in the Herald of ONU, Series “Sociology and Political Sciences”, Vol.18, Issue 2 (18), 2013.

RC 14 FORTHCOMING MIDTERM CONFERENCE IN ATHENS

Louis-Vincent Thomas (20/5/1922 - 22/1/1994)



On January 22nd and 23rd 2014, will be held in Athens the RC14 midterm Conference on: Media and Power: Socio-Anthropology of the Contemporary Politics; the languages of the Conference will be French and Greek, and the works are meant to honour Louis-Vincent Thomas, the famous French Sociologist and Anthropologist (who apart his works on the meaning of “death” for societies, has also analysed the contemporary mythology based on “Science Fiction” productions).

COLLOQUE – HOMMAGE A L.V. THOMAS, ATHÈNES, 22 et 23 janvier 2014

MÉDIAS ET POUVOIR : SOCIO-ANTHROPOLOGIE DU POLITIQUE CONTEMPORAIN

- Les Départements de Sociologie et de Communication, Médias et Culture de l'Université Panteion,
- Le Département de Communication et Médias de Masse de l'Université Nationale et Capodistrienne d'Athènes,
- L'Association Internationale de Sociologie, CR Sociologie de la Communication, de la Connaissance et de la Culture,
- L'Association Internationale des Sociologues de Langue Française –GT Socio-anthropologie Politique,
- L'Institut Français de Grèce,
- L'Association des Membres dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques- Section Hellénique,
- L'Association Grecque de Science Politique,

En collaboration avec:

- Le Département d'Anthropologie Culturelle et de Communication, de la Faculté de Journalisme et Sciences de la Communication de l'Université de Bucarest,
- Le Master « Science Politique et Sociologie » du Département Science Politique et Gestion Publique de l'Université Nationale et Capodistrienne d'Athènes,
- Le Groupe d'Études et de Recherche Interdisciplinaire de l'Université de Lille III,
- Le laboratoire LAIOS (Laboratoire d'Anthropologie des Institutions et des Organisations Sociales), de la MSH, Paris,
- Le laboratoire MICA (Médiation, Information, Communication, Art), de l'Université Bordeaux 3,
- Le GRER (Groupe de Recherches et d'Études sur la Radio),
- Le CETCOPRA, (Centre d'Études des Techniques, des Connaissances et des Pratiques), Université de Paris I,
- Le Groupe de Recherche Magistrature, Société et Politique du Conseil National de Développement Scientifique et Technologique du Brésil (CNPq)
- L'Université Mechnikov d'Odessa

La « médiatisation de la vie politique » (l'utilisation intensive et régulière par la classe politique de la presse, de la radio et surtout de la télévision) est liée indissociablement à la transformation du cadre politique des sociétés modernes situant progressivement la question des rapports entre médias et pouvoirs au cœur des débats. La relation entre médias et vie politique constitue de nos jours, un facteur important de la compréhension des enjeux liés aux pouvoirs en vigueur, un domaine idéal pour l'analyse socio-anthropologique du « politique » contemporain.

Une des caractéristiques des hommes politiques d'aujourd'hui c'est qu'ils adoptent un moi dramatique qui se dégage du spectacle que l'on propose (qui peut aller jusqu'aux émissions de divertissement) tandis que les spécialistes de la mise en scène sont très souvent des « communicants » (journalistes entre autres). Les grands orateurs ont partiellement disparu, remplacés par des techniciens de la parole où la campagne électorale se présente comme une séquence privilégiée de construction de la réalité politique et signifie surtout l'imposition des symboles, d'images et de discours c'est à dire les constituants d'une mythologie politique contemporaine (où la logique de la communication semble



l'emporter sur la « logique politique ») ; cette « mutation » va de pair avec une autre caractéristique importante du politique contemporain et qui consiste à la « gestion » (formelle) des exigences des pouvoirs économiques. Cette transformation se trouve au cœur de l'approche du sens du pouvoir dans la société « mondialisée ».

Tout groupe social peut être considéré comme un faisceau de relations de pouvoir (castrateur et sacré) qui touchent au devenir de l'homme ; mais le pouvoir est intimement lié à la mort : le pouvoir de la mort qui s'impose comme une implacable nécessité ; c'est aussi le pouvoir sur la mort, avec le fol espoir de la différer ou d'en supprimer l'horreur ou le pouvoir par la mort, inséparable de l'exercice direct ou indirect du pouvoir, ce même pouvoir qui peut donner l'illusion de l'immortalité ; dans ce sens, tout pouvoir s'appuie sur la crainte de la mort ; étant donné qu'il n'est point d'organisation sociale sans exercice direct ou indirect du pouvoir, la mort est en quelque sorte le point ultime vers lequel tend ce dernier car il n'est point de pouvoir sans entrave à la spontanéité de la vie. Pourtant, si le pouvoir est l'expression de la pulsion de mort, la transgression et la révolte sont des signes de la pulsion de vie, de la libido, de la création du « neuf ».

Des chercheurs en Sciences Sociales, travaillant dans des domaines comme la Socio-anthropologie de la communication et du politique sont invités à participer aux débats ; on prévoit plus précisément, les axes de réflexion suivants :

- Questions théoriques liées au sujet « Communication et Pouvoir » : pouvoirs mortifères, société de conservation, mémoire ou pluralité des « survies » ; le sens de l' « immortalité » ou encore la transversalité épistémologique, peuvent en faire l'objet.
- Pouvoirs actuels et Médias : pouvoirs politiques, économiques, religieux, « animistes », techniques etc.
- Inconscient et Culture - Fantômes, œuvres d'art et médias : tour d'horizon dans l'imaginaire (par l'analyse des œuvres d'art, de la Science Fiction, des mythes et des récits) permettant de dénouer à travers les fantasmes (surtout les fantasmes d'angoisse), les signes de mort de la société contemporaine, « malade de ses progrès »).

Comité scientifique international

Bouvier Pierre, Paris X, LAIOS, IIAC/EHESS, Paris

Chantraine Olivier, Université de Lille III

Cheval Jean-Jacques, Université de Bordeaux III

Frumusani Daniela, Université de Bucarest

Gamba Fiorenza, Université de Sassari

Lychkovska Oksana, Université Mechnikov, Odessa

Péquignot Bruno, Université de Paris III, Sorbonne Nouvelle

Rojo Raul-Enrique, Université Fédérale de Rio Grande-do-Sul, Porto-Alegre

Souffron Valérie, Université de Paris I

Comité scientifique local

Aranitou Valia Association Grecque de Science Politique

Christodoulou Nicolas Institut Français de Grèce, AMOPA

Constantopoulou Christiana, Université Panteion Sciences Sociales et Politiques

Psilla Marianna, Université Panteion Sciences Sociales et Politiques

Rigou Myrto, Université Nationale et Capodistrienne d'Athènes

Vovou Ioanna, Université Panteion Sciences Sociales et Politiques

Programme préliminaire

22/1/2014 Auditorium de l'Institut Français de Grèce, 31, rue Sina, Athènes

09.30-9.45: Mots de bienvenue, introduction à la thématique du colloque

09.45-11.45: Questions théoriques

12.00-14.00: Médias et Pouvoirs actuels



17.00-19.00: Inconscient et Culture

19.15-21.00: Table Ronde

23/1/2014 Université Panteion, 136, Syngrou ave, Athènes

09.30-11.30 Questions théoriques, Inconscient et Culture

11.45-13.45 Médias et pouvoirs

—

MIDTERM CONFERENCE

ESA – CONSUMPTION RESEARCH NETWORK

The CFP is happy to announce the call for papers for a midterm conference in Porto, Portugal on Sept 3-6, 2014. This year, the theme of the meeting is Consumption and Context: *Exploring concepts and consumption processes in varying socio-cultural settings*.

Papers that address various aspects of consumption (i.e. arts participation, food, political consumption, body, gender) are welcome. The deadline for abstracts is **February 15, 2014**. More information can be found at <http://www.esa-consumption.org/>

2. Notifications of Members' Publications

Books

Two books (one published and one forthcoming) of Constantin Schifirnet, Professor - Faculty of Communication and Public Relations at the National School of Political Studies and Public Administration (NSPSPA) – București, Romania: Romanians, as they were and as they are, București: Tritonic, Romania, (October, 2013).

Romanian philosophy in the Public Space. Modernization and Europeanization, București: Tritonic, Romania, (December, 2012).

Book Chapters

'Information about policies and initiatives of European Union transmitted by the domestic social actors at public television.' In *Rethinking the Public Sphere: Theoretical Conceptualization, New Challenge, and Dynamics*, ed. Mădălina Boțan, Tudor Vlad and Dana Popescu-Jourdy **București: Comunicare.ro, (November, 2013)**

Author: Constantin Schifirnet, Professor - Faculty of Communication and Public Relations National School of Political Studies and Public Administration (NSPSPA) – București, Romania.

Articles:

The Intellectual's State in the Context of the Romanian Society's Europeanization, *Management Dynamics in the Knowledge Economy*, volume 1, no. 2, 2013, pp. 293-315.

Author: Constantin Schifirnet - Professor - Faculty of Communication and Public Relations National School of Political Studies and Public Administration (NSPSPA) – București, Romania

(Forthcoming for 2013)

The Digital Interlock of Surveillance, Voyeurism and Sexuality

In: *Encyclopedia of Human Sexuality* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013)

Editors: Patricia Whelehan and Anne Bolin

Author: Indhu Rajagopal, PhD Professor, Department of Social Science York University, 4700 Keele St, Toronto M3J 1P3 Ontario, Canada

Yokohama Principal Museums

Yokohama is Japan's second largest city with a population of over three million. Yokohama is located less than half an hour south of Tokyo by train, and is the capital of Kanagawa Prefecture.

Towards the end of the Edo Period (1603-1867), during which Japan maintained a policy of self-isolation, Yokohama's port was one of the first to be opened to foreign trade in 1859. Consequently, Yokohama quickly grew from a small fishing village into one of Japan's major cities.

Until today, Yokohama remains popular among expats, has one of the world's largest chinatowns and preserves some former Western residences in the Yamate district.

Yokohama Museum Guide

There are a number of high quality museums in Yokohama with interactive elements and exhibitions that are well designed and engaging. The city's unique history as one of Japan's first port towns to be opened to international trade in the 1850s and the resulting interaction with other countries, as well as the development of trade and industry, are featured in many of the museums.

Nautical



Nippon Maru and Yokohama Port Museum

Built in 1930, Nippon Maru is a retired sailing ship that is permanently docked at Minato Mirai and is open to the public. Across from the ship is the Yokohama Port Museum, a recently remodeled museum that has a History Zone illustrating the port's entire history and a Rediscovery Zone which illustrates broader marine topics.



NYK Maritime Museum

NYK (Nippon Yusen Kaisha) is one of the world's biggest shipping companies with a long and varied history dating back to the 1880s. The museum outlines the company's history from the opening of Japan to NYK's present role in international shipping, illustrating the development of marine technology, commerce and politics along the way.



Newspark

Yokohama was the birthplace of the Japanese daily newspaper, and this fact is commemorated by the Newspark museum. The museum stretches up four floors, and displays elaborate exhibits and objects from all the different periods of development of Japanese newspapers.



Mitsubishi Minatomirai Industrial Museum

The museum has six zones: space, ocean, transportation, daily life discovery, environment and technology quest. The present and future of each zone's theme is presented, with many interactive elements like computer simulators. The museum seems generally geared towards kids.



Silk Museum

For a long time, silk was the most important industry of the Japanese economy. This museum illustrates the history of silk, silk garments from Japan and around the world, and silk producing technologies (including live silkworms). The museum was built in 1959, for the 100th anniversary of the opening of Yokohama Port.

Food



Kirin Beer Village

Kirin is one of Japan's main producers of beer, and the Beer Village is part of Kirin's brewery in Yokohama. The main attraction is a one hour tour of the brewery, which includes movies and displays about the history of beer as well as a free tasting at the end. The tour is conducted in Japanese, though there are English pamphlets available.



Cup Noodles Museum

This fun museum follows the history of instant noodles with interactive exhibits, modern art and hands on experiences. For a small fee visitors can design their own cup noodles or make instant ramen noodles from scratch (reservations required). There is also a food court that serves noodle dishes from around the world.



Ramen Museum

The Ramen Museum introduces the history of ramen and features about a dozen ramen stores with regional flavors from across Japan in a setting of Tokyo in the 1950s, the time when ramen gained popularity.

Art



Yokohama Museum of Art

The Museum has seven galleries; three for displaying works from the permanent collection, one for photography, and three for special exhibitions (four per year). The museum focuses on contemporary art as well as Yokohama itself, the city, its role as a port, and its artists.

Zoo



Zoorasia

Zoorasia is a well designed, modern zoo, located just outside central Yokohama. The zoo has animals from around the world, including polar bears and elephants, as well as a section of animals native to Japan.

How to get there

