

NEWSLETTER OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON CONCEPTUAL AND TERMINOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

International Sociological Association – Research Committee 35

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Editor's Introduction

Dear members and friends of COCTA,

I would like first to welcome our new members! On behalf of the board, I invite all of you to participate in our activities and to make any proposals for conferences or other academic proceedings in the field of conceptual analysis.

Our main event next year will be the XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology in Toronto, Canada, July 15-21, 2018, having as its main theme: "Power, Violence and Justice: Reflections, Responses and Responsibilities." Our Call for Sessions was very successful, and David Strecker and I would like to thank all of you who submitted sessions proposals. We received a large number of high-quality submissions addressing several fields of conceptual analysis within sociological theory and research. The downside of this was that we still had to reject some good proposals. Yet, we trust that you will find our program as exciting as we do and look forward to everyone's participation in order to bring it to life. Below you will find all information on the event as well as the Calls for Papers in alphabetical order. The deadline for submitting abstracts is **September 30, 2017**.

This issue also brings you the announcement of two books recently published by members of our Research Committee: *Habermas and Giddens on Praxis and Modernity*, by Craig Browne, and Heinrich Popper's *Phenomena of Power*, edited by Jochen Dreher and Andreas Göttlich.

Furthermore, you can find the Call for Abstracts for a session organized by Alejandro Bialakowsky, Alejandro Blanco, Pablo de Marinis, and Gina Zabludovsky Kuper at the II Latin American Congress of Social Theory (Buenos Aires, 2-4 August 2017).

As always, you are all very welcome to contribute to this newsletter with short articles on conceptual debates within sociology as well as on related matters of public interest. We look forward to hearing from you!

On behalf of the board,
Arthur Bueno

ISA World Congress Toronto 2018: General Information

The congress website with relevant information is:

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/toronto-2018>

Rules for all presenters. Participants may be listed **no more than twice** in the Program. This includes all types of participation – except being listed as Program Coordinator or Session Organizer. Program Coordinators and Session Organizers can organize a maximum of two sessions where their names will be additionally listed in the program. A “participant” is anyone listed as an author, co-author, plenary speaker, roundtable presenter, poster presenter, panelist, critic, discussant, session (co)chair, or any similar substantive role in the program. A participant cannot present and chair in the same session. ISA does not require anyone to be a **member** in order to present a paper, and provides different registration fees for members and non-members. In order to be included in the program the participants (presenters, chairs, discussants, etc.) need to pay **registration** fees by **March 20, 2018 24:00 GMT**. If not registered, their names will not appear in the Program Book and in the Abstracts Book. In case of a co-authored paper, in order for a paper to appear in the program at least one co-author should pay the registration fee by the early registration deadline **March 20, 2018 24:00 GMT**; the names of other co-authors will be listed as well. If other co-authors wish to attend the conference they must pay the registration fee.

Applications for registration grants. Applications for grants must be made by **January 31, 2018 24:00 GMT** by the participants directly to the RC Program Coordinator. One can apply for a grant to only one RC/WG/TG. The ISA Secretariat will advise the RC/WG/TG if someone has applied to or been recommended by more than one group for the various types of grants. It is recommended to avoid repetition of the same persons who received grants for a previous conference. Grants will be paid by the ISA directly to the selected individuals. Two categories of grants have been established for active participants in the RC/WG/TG programs. **Registration grants** for individual ISA members in good standing (i.e. who paid the individual membership fee at least two years before the month of the ISA conference) who play an active role in the conference program either as program coordinator, session organizer/chair or paper-giver. **Travel/accommodation grants** for individual ISA members in good standing (i.e. who paid the individual membership fee at least two years before the month of the ISA conference) resident in countries listed in economies B or C who play an active role in the conference program either as program coordinator, session organizer/chair, panelist, discussant and/or paper-giver.

ISA World Congress Toronto 2018: Calls for Papers

RC35 Conceptual and Terminological Analysis

Program Coordinators:

David STRECKER, University of Erfurt, Germany, david.strecker@uni-erfurt.de

Arthur BUENO, University of Erfurt, Germany, arthur.bueno@uni-erfurt.de

Session Overview:

1. Cultural Performance: Reconceptualizing Social Change in Modern Societies
2. Global Violence: Local Conflicts and Competition for Attention and Legitimacy
3. Mass and Democracy: Two Sociological Concepts in Tension
4. Memory and Communication
5. Money, Capital, and Modern Life: Building Conceptual Bridges Between Marx and Simmel
6. Politics of Recognition and Cultural Citizenship
7. Postcolonial Theory, Internal Colonialism and the Markers of the Historical Subject
8. Price, Value & Worth: Conceptualizing Social Practices of E/Valuation
9. Re-Specifying Trust: Alternative Forms for Re-Thinking Modernity
10. Relational Sociology: What Are 'relations' and Why Does It Matter to Study Relations?
11. Rethinking the Role of Political Economy in Critical Theory
12. Social Visibility: Conceptual Explorations
13. The Many Faces of Power: A Current Conceptual Synthesis
14. Business Session

Abstract submissions:

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2018/webprogrampreliminary/Symposium472.html>

Cultural Performance: Reconceptualizing Social Change in Modern Societies

Language: Spanish and English

May cultural sociology provide new insights for the understanding of social change in contemporary societies? The concept of cultural or social performance has been proposed by Jeffrey Alexander as a key one for the renovation of cultural sociology. In complex and differentiated contemporary societies, rituals are unable to maintain social cohesion, but social performance may achieve the re-fusion of those social elements that are no longer cohesive. Therefore, performance can be seen as a result of social change. But, furthermore, performance is able to foster social change, as it happens in social mobilizations that generate great charismatic power. This session deals with the ways in which cultural performance may encourage social change, with the relationship between performance and processes such as differentiation and de-differentiation, and with the role of performance beyond Western modernity or in a variety of modernities.

Session Organizers:

Jose Maria PEREZ-AGOTE, Universidad Pública de Navarra, Spain,
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Jose txo BERIAIN, Universidad Publica de Navarra, Spain, josetxo@unavarra.es

Global Violence: Local Conflicts and Competition for Attention and Legitimacy

Language: English

The ideal of non-violence has been institutionalized in world politics since the mid-19th century. However, this obviously has not led to the disappearance of violence in conflicts around the world. The gap between the ideal and reality of violence is usually discussed in terms of deviance. This session aims to explore it as a world societal constellation in its own right, based on the observation that the establishment of non-violence as a global institution, rather than reducing violence, has changed the conditions for the production of violent conflicts by changing how conflicts are observed: On the one hand, it allows de-legitimizing (criticizing, scandalizing) any kind of violence; on the other hand, it also encourages the deliberate use of violence in order to draw global attention to a conflict party's cause. Crucial to this process are international organizations and similar observers who, by publicly objecting violence in the name of humanity, make violence particularly likely to attract the attention of the so-called world public opinion. The session invites papers which discuss conceptual and empirical aspects of this complex interplay between local conflicts and global competition for attention and legitimacy, dealing with questions like: How do professional observers, e.g. NGOs, journalists or social scientists, draw attention to violent conflicts around the world? How do they criticize and scandalize the behavior of conflict parties? And how do conflict parties observe and react to these observations? How do they "game" the global attention drawn to the conflict by third parties?

Session Organizers:

Tobias WERRON, Bielefeld University, Germany, tobias.werron@uni-bielefeld.de

Teresa KOLOMA BECK, Bundeswehr University Munich, Germany, tkb@unibw.de

Mass and Democracy: Two Sociological Concepts in Tension

Language: Spanish and English

Since the beginnings of sociology, the concept of mass has been deeply linked to reflections on democracy. Along with other terms such as crowd, multitude, mob or mass society, conceptualizations on the masses are inseparable from the analysis of the conditions and features of modern democracies, as well as the dangers and authoritarian tendencies that can be related to the masses in urban, industrial and capitalist societies. Thereby, an analytical and normative ambiguity in the relationship between masses and democracy is highlighted: masses and processes of massification can both democratize and endanger democracy. This gives shape to different definitions of democracy itself from the study, for example, of the nexus between leadership and elites in respect to masses in the ever recurring debate on “populism”.

This conceptual, normative and political link between masses and democracy is singularly productive to deepen the possibilities of comparative approaches, since it cannot be confined to certain areas of intellectual production. On the contrary, such connection has been deployed in the most diverse social spaces and latitudes, in dissimilar and heterogeneous ways. Therefore, this session calls for proposals which are specially concerned with comparative analyzes of different kinds, focusing on debates, appropriations or simultaneities, between perspectives of dissimilar social spaces (e.g. in the broad and unspecific denominations of “South” and “North”).

Session Organizers:

Alejandro BIALAKOWSKY, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina,
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Pablo DE MARINIS, Universidad de Buenos Aires/CONICET, Argentina,
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Gina ZABLUDOVSKY, Facultad de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico, ginaza@unam.mx

Memory and Communication

Language: English

This session invites scholars who are interested in the communicative process of individual and collective memory transmission across generations and cultures. Memory is conceived as a natural tool of the mind, however, when it is communicated and shared in society it needs to be exercised based on the speakers' capacity to recall and transmit and the listeners' capacity to understand and resonate with the memory of the others. How are these intersubjective understandings made possible in different cultural and historical contexts? We welcome submissions that focus on the methodological and conceptual difficulties as well as creativity regarding this matter.

Session Organizer:

Sachiko TAKITA-ISHII, Yokohama City University, Japan, stakita@yokohama-cu.ac.jp

Money, Capital, and Modern Life: Building Conceptual Bridges Between Marx and Simmel

Language: English

2018 marks the 200th anniversary of Karl Marx's birth and the 100th anniversary of Georg Simmel's death. This occasion presents a timely opportunity to reflect on the relation between their works. The relevance of Marx's writings to Simmel's oeuvre is often alluded to, but the precise extent of this influence still calls for further exploration. The continuities are most striking at the level of the diagnosis of modern society: Marx's analyses of alienation, commodity fetishism, and capital's quantifying and accelerating tendencies are not only critically discussed but also expanded in Simmel's investigations of the paradoxes of modern culture, to the point that the latter's work could appear to a contemporary reader as a psychological counterpart to *Capital*. These diagnoses, however, were formulated on very different philosophical and political foundations: whereas Marx relied on the tradition of Left Hegelianism, English political economy, and French socialism, Simmel dialogued mainly with neo-Kantianism, neoclassical economics, and vitalism. To what extent, then, do Simmel's investigations on money supplement, widen or contradict Marx's analysis of capital? Do their different philosophical and methodological starting points prevent a productive dialogue between their arguments? How to reconcile Marxian analyses of class and exploitation with Simmel's focus on pathologies affecting the totality of modern individuals? In what way can the confrontation between their perspectives become relevant for current sociology and social philosophy? This panel welcomes contributions that reflect on these or other aspects of the relation between Marx and Simmel.

Session Organizer:

Mariana TEIXEIRA, Cebrap (Brazilian Center for Analysis and Planning), Brazil,
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Politics of Recognition and Cultural Citizenship

Language: English

This session will address several arguments concerning cultural pluralism developed under diverse institutional contexts, such as federalism (Taylor, Kymlicka), republicanism (Walzer) and theories about authoritarian power. Sociology and political philosophy must take into account the multilevel arrangement between rights and identity (Benhabib), reframing current perspectives on the public sphere and politics, on power and conceptions of the people (Balibar). We invite papers presenting concrete and historical fieldworks on the plural self which moves along different institutional and cultural contexts. They might also specify the various dimensions of recognition in different institutional and cultural spheres and the plural temporalities which shape the plural self (Honneth, Lahire, Browne). The cultural conflict of modernity may be reassessed through a socio-historical and socio-political framework moving between instrumentality and expressivity, multiplicity and identity. This session intends to specify the dynamics and the social foundations of the plural self, taking into account the contribution of communities (sense of belonging, social exchange, expression), markets (possessive individualism, transaction), and the state (guarantee of rights, formal equality). In which ways can cultural rights and cultural citizenship help to recognize and support the plural self?

Session Organizer:

Gilles VERPRAET, University Paris Ouest Nanterre, France, gverp2015@gmail.com

Postcolonial Theory, Internal Colonialism and the Markers of the Historical Subject

Language: English

The purpose of this session is to deepen the postcolonial debate from the theoretical perspectives suggested by the theory of internal colonialism. Traditionally, this theory focuses on ethnic and class conflicts present in national systems of domination in connection with transnational power structures. The moment demands revising the limits of this theory in order to deepen the debate on the forms of manifestation of the human subject. In this sense, it is important to consider the processes of construction and displacement of the subject's identity. The latter cannot be limited to narratives about memories and traditions or those related to conflicts between ethnicities and social classes. The theory of internal colonialism can offer new perspectives to explain the mechanisms of recoloniality as well as anti-colonial reactions in contemporary times provided that it incorporates a broader understanding of the idea of intergroup conflict, which implies valuing not only the political but also the cultural, psychological and emotional dimensions that constitute the human being. In order to do so, the theory of internal colonialism needs to integrate into the explanation of conflicts, alongside ethnic and class markers, others such as gender, religion, nationality, and nature. The new devices of recoloniality of contemporary life require theoretical reflections focusing more directly on both alienation and liberation. The widening of the understanding of the subject within postcolonial contexts on the basis of a plurality of markers is decisive for illuminating the devices of subjective liberation.

Session Organizer:

Paulo Henrique MARTINS, Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil,
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Price, Value & Worth: Conceptualizing Social Practices of E/Valuation

Joint Session with RC02 Economy and Society

Language: English

Valuation and evaluation are widespread social practices. Investigating these practices is essential to understanding how social order comes about and changes over time. With the spread of capitalism, (e)valuations have come to be understood primarily in economic terms. And with the spread of neoliberalism and market fundamentalism, governments and organizations are increasingly turning to valuation mechanisms to quantify the worth of people, processes, and outcomes. For example, credit rating agencies evaluate individuals' creditworthiness, bank stress tests evaluate banks' stability, and stock markets evaluate corporations' worth. One of the striking characteristics of such market valuations is that they create commensurations that are interpreted as objective, informed, depersonalized, apolitical and expert. Despite such apparently successful abstracting, a leitmotif in a number of research programs (e.g., the New Economic Sociology, and current reformulations of Critical Theory) is that the economy and social life are not separate spheres with distinctive values and practices. Exploring this productive tension, this joint session of RC02 and RC35 calls for conceptual as well as theoretically-informed empirical papers that investigate the beliefs, values and practices embedded in diverse social practices of (e)valuation and the role and functions of (e)valuations as well as devaluations for the reproduction and development of contemporary society. We particularly encourage papers that unpack social processes of price formation, valuation, and the assessment of worth.

Session Organizers:

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David STRECKER, University of Jena, Germany, david.strecker@uni-erfurt.de

Re-Specifying Trust: Alternative Forms for Re-Thinking Modernity

Language: French and English

Although the concept of trust has been in the background of social science since the 1950s, few approaches have conceived of it in terms of the phenomenal details of particular social settings. Formalistic and schematic analysis tends to locate trust in abstract institutional cases, emerging in conditions of modernity (Giddens), and functioning to reduce social complexity (Luhmann). In reference to what is suspicious or dangerous, trust is something that there not enough of, or it is something that must be established and built-up. An alternative view seems impossible without first being located in a context of risk and distrust (Anderson), not to mention 20thcentury Western industrialized society. The sociology of Harold Garfinkel, however, provides a different set of analytic resources for trust. Based on this account, whatever else it does, trust makes communication possible. Without it there is no information and no practice. This argument is distinctive in insisting that information is constituted as information by the social - that is, cooperatively ordered - aspects of the situated practice in which it occurs. This nuanced understanding in terms of a 'situated-trust' as "sense-making-in-action" (Watson) operates with a provision of shared values and norms, which might be a fundamentally different context of trust in comparison to other models. How then does an alternative and instrumental form of trust result in re-shaping ideas about modernity, communication, risk, shared-practice, uncertainty, norms and information?

This session is a platform for participants to entertain alternative, perhaps incommensurable, conceptions of what trust is.

Session Organizers:

James MERRON, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, USA,

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Elisio MACAMO, University of Basel, Switzerland, Switzerland,

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Relational Sociology: What Are 'Relations' and Why Does It Matter to Study Relations?

Language: French and English

Relational sociology is a growing and diversified approach since the publication of the 'Manifesto for a Relational Sociology' by M. Emirbayer in 1997. It has been connected to classical and contemporary social thinkers and philosophers such as Simmel, Mauss, Bourdieu, Bashkar, Deleuze, Elias, White, Luhmann, Latour, Tarde and Whitehead. It has been used to study various social dynamics or issues – e.g. violence, agency, social movements, social inequalities, health, education and many others. Furthermore, there is an ongoing relational 'turn' in other disciplines such as psychology, psychoanalysis, philosophy, international relations, environmental studies and archeology. In sum, there is little doubt this approach is becoming a very important one in contemporary sociology. In this session, we would like to invite papers discussing the quality and the relevance of this relational 'turn' in sociology. How or why is it better to adopt a relational approach to study social phenomena? Is there anything specific or distinct here? What are 'relations' in relational sociology? What does it mean to say that societies (or any other social phenomena) are 'relations'? Empirical research and theoretical discussions are welcome from sociology and compatible disciplines.

Session Organizer:

Francois DEPELTEAU, Laurentian University, Canada, fdepelteau@laurentian.ca

Rethinking the Role of Political Economy in Critical Theory

Language: English

This session explores the role of political economy in critical social theory and how the established nexus between them should be revised in order to facilitate a more effective critique of contemporary capitalism. The Frankfurt School's greater concern with culture and subjectivity contributed to its distinction from other strands of Marxism. The later generations of the Frankfurt School tradition of critical theory have, by and large, moved even further away from political economy and criticised the earlier adherence to some version of the leading role of political economy and value theory. Although there are suggestions of an alternative conception of political economy in the work of Jürgen Habermas and Axel Honneth, this possibility has never been fully developed and this has resulted in somewhat unsatisfactory lacunae in critical theory. This is particularly consequential because the recent crises and tendencies of capitalist societies have foregrounded problems relevant to political economy, like the financial crisis and recession, austerity regimes and expanding social inequality, among others. It may seem that the straightforward solution would be for critical theory to engage with developments in political economy, but such a view may overlook the complexity of the issues involved in such an engagement. Should critical theory reconnect with political economy? If so, should these connections include the wider strands of the heterodox economic theory, such as Keynes, Polanyi, Simmel, Myrdal, Piketty and so on? Likewise, what should be made of recent attempts within the tradition of critical theory to rethink categories of Marxist political economy?

Session Organizers:

Craig BROWNE, University of Sydney, Australia, craig.browne@sydney.edu.au

Arthur BUENO, Universität Erfurt, Germany, arthur.bueno@uni-erfurt.de

Social Visibility: Conceptual Explorations

Language: English

The panel is devoted to enlarge the exploration of visibility as a workable sociological category. How can visibility be conceptualized? What is the meaning of inter-visibility relations? How are visibility asymmetries technologically and culturally put in place, and with what consequences? Which newly emergent diagrams and measures of visibility are appearing in our age?

Notably, the notion of visibility does not simply coincide with visibility. Instead, visibility is a 'field' or 'element' of the social in which the distinction between the relevant and the irrelevant is each time drawn, contested and retraced by actors. As visibility turns into a valuable resource for action and imagination, it also configures a field of struggles, controversies, and a new principle of social hierarchy. Suffice to consider, for instance, academic rankings and performance benchmarking. Consequently, the experience of visibility also acquires a new set of meanings and new affective connotations in people's lives.

The technological devices, architectural diagrams and political import of visibility call for more extensive and in-depth conceptualization and investigation. How do visibility regimes emerge and gain acceptance? What is the relationship between invisibility and social marginality? To which extent are new media technologies transforming visibility dynamics, scales and rhythms? What happens when the quest for visibility breeds addictive phenomena? Under which conditions does visibility go astray or turn into a nemesis, as it occurs for instance with public scandals?

These are just some of the many questions we suggest to consider and further explore.

Session Organizer:

Andrea BRIGHENTI, University of Trento, Italy, andrea.brighenti@unitn.it

The Many Faces of Power: A Current Conceptual Synthesis

Language: English

Power is one of the most challenging and influential concepts in the social sciences, specifically in connection with phenomena – as proposed by the conference theme – like violence and justice. Despite the significance of the idea of power or even because of it, we find a variety of diverse conceptions that (sometimes strongly) differ from each other because they originate from divergent epistemological perspectives and focus on particular aspects. Seizing the international framework of the ISA Congress, this session challenges the idea of power with a view to establish bridges between its diverse conceptions along the following three lines: The first one distinguishes between “universality” (Nietzsche, Popitz) and “particularity” (Weber, Elias), considering fundamental anthropological forms of power on the one hand and historical ideal types on the other. The second one differentiates between “intentionality” (Popitz, Weber) and “structure” (Foucault), parting on the one hand from the conviction that power is exerted on others based on intended action and on the other, that it is an effect of structurally established discourses. The third line of argumentation distinguishes between “objectivity” (Marx, Durkheim) and “subjectivity” (Berger/Luckmann, Bourdieu), reflecting the possibility of contradicting definitions of the situation between power holders and those exposed to it (and thus the possibility of latent power). The session encourages researchers from diverse epistemological paradigms to hand in proposals to build theoretical ‘bridges’ between diverging power conceptions. The general intention is to establish a synthesis of theories of power, an achievement that has not been accomplished so far.

Session Organizers:

Jochen DREHER, University of Konstanz, Germany, jochen.dreher@uni-konstanz.de

Andreas GOETTLICH, University of Konstanz, Germany,

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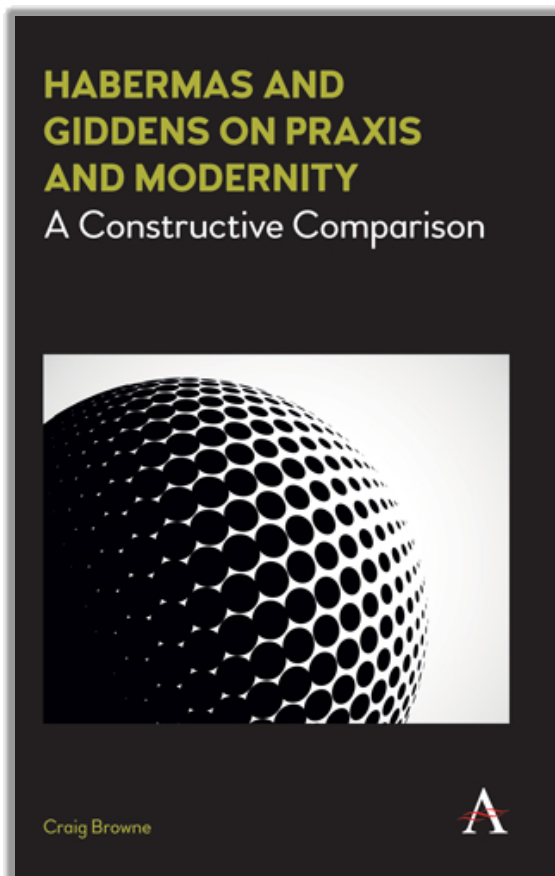
Publications

Habermas and Giddens on Praxis and Modernity

A Constructive Comparison

Craig Browne

Anthem Press



This is a careful and considered engagement with the work of Habermas and Giddens. It identifies their positive contributions to a theory of modernity while developing a critique of lacunae in their thought arising from social developments subsequent to their main body of writing. It is an important work of recuperation and reflection.

John Holmwood, University of Nottingham, UK

This is a book that lives up to its main promise, but goes well beyond it. It presents Habermas's and Giddens's works innovatively as well as sketches a renewal of critical theory with a timely emphasis on creativity and the development of the global modern civilizational constellation.

José Maurício Domingues, Rio de Janeiro State University, Brazil

Against a rapidly changing backdrop, Habermas and Giddens have towered over the last half-century of social thought. The range and complexity of their writings have been breathtaking, making any attempt at comparison a forbidding one. The significance of Craig Browne's lucid, philosophically sophisticated and endlessly insightful achievement can only be fully appreciated against the magnitude of this challenge.

Rob Stones, Western Sydney University, Australia

In *Habermas and Giddens on Praxis and Modernity* Craig Browne investigates how two of the most important and influential contemporary social theorists have sought to develop the modernist visions of the constitution of society through the autonomous actions of subjects. Comparing Habermas's and Giddens's conceptions of the constitution of society, interpretations of the social-structural impediments to subjects' autonomy and attempts to delineate potentials for progressive social change within contemporary society, Browne draws on his own work, which has extended aspects of the social theorists' approach to modernity. Despite the criticisms developed over the course of the book, Habermas and Giddens are found to be two of the most important theorists of democratization and social democracy, the dynamics of capitalist modernity and their paradoxes, social practices and reflexivity, and the foundations of social theory in the problem of the relationship of social action and social structure.

Craig Browne is a senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Sydney. Working in the area of critical social theory, he is co-editor of *Violence in France and Australia: Disorder in the Postcolonial Welfare State* (2010).

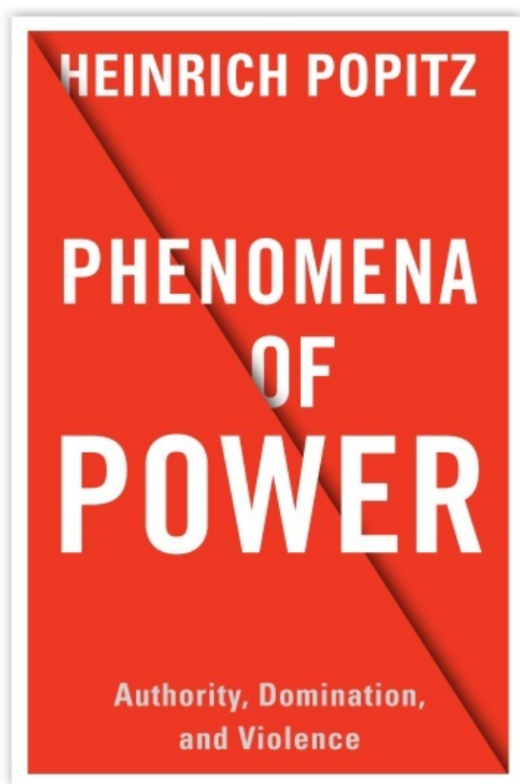
Phenomena of Power

Authority, Domination, and Violence

Heinrich Popitz

Introduction by Andreas Göttlich and Jochen Dreher. Translated by Gianfranco Poggi

Columbia University Press



Long counted among the classics of German postwar sociology, Heinrich Popitz's *Phenomena of Power* is an elegant and unique anthropological study of power. This excellent translation will add an independent perspective to the Anglophone world's discourse on power and will also open up numerous new points for analysis and comparison.

Ulrich Bröckling, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany

In times of globalization, localization, and rapid technicization, the appearance of power becomes increasingly complicated. Its inquiry calls for a comprehensive theoretical viewpoint, like the one Heinrich Popitz develops in *Phenomena of Power*. He conceives of power as one of essential phenomena of human sociation, distinguishes four fundamental and anthropological forms of power, and articulates them in detail. Readers of this volume will acquire an appropriate viewpoint for inquiring into power.

Hisashi Nasu, Waseda University, Japan

In *Phenomena of Power*, one of the leading figures of postwar German sociology reflects on the nature, and many forms of, power. For Heinrich Popitz, power is rooted in the human condition and is therefore part of all social relations. Drawing on philosophical anthropology, he identifies the elementary forms of power to provide detailed insight into how individuals gain and perpetuate control over others. Instead of striving for a power-free society, Popitz argues, humanity should try to impose limits on power where possible and establish counterpower where necessary. *Phenomena of Power* delves into the sociohistorical manifestations of power and breaks through to its general structures. Popitz distinguishes the forms of the enforcement of power as well as of its stabilization and institutionalization, clearly articulating how the mechanisms of power work and how to track them in the social world. Philosophically trained, historically informed, and endowed with keen observation, Popitz uses examples ranging from the way passengers on a ship organize deck chairs to how prisoners of war share property to illustrate his theory. Long influential in German sociology, *Phenomena of Power* offers a challenging reworking of one of the essential concepts of the social sciences.

Heinrich Popitz (1925–2002) was professor of sociology and founding director of the Institute for Sociology at the University of Freiburg. In 1971-72, he was Theodor Heuss Professor at the New School for Social Research.

Call for Abstracts

II Latin American Congress of Social Theory. Horizons and dilemmas of contemporary thought in the Global South

Buenos Aires, August 2-4, 2017

Call for Abstracts: http://bit.ly/IICLTS_2017 (Deadline: May 22, 2017)

Session 13: **Social theories: the interplay of the “receptions” and the “simultaneous approaches” between “South” and “North”** [Teorías sociales: el juego de las “recepciones” y los “abordajes simultáneos” entre el “Sur” y el “Norte”]

Session organizers:

Alejandro Bialakowsky (IIGG/UBA-CONICET)

Alejandro Blanco (UNQ-CONICET)

Pablo de Marinis (IIGG/UBA-CONICET)

Gina Zabudovsky Kuper (FCPyS-UNAM)

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Social theories have always been elaborated in a field of tensions between local or national traditions and their interactions with wider contexts, regional or global. For well-known reasons, the circulation of knowledge has been overwhelmingly unequal in terms of the volume of its flows. Thus, in the “South” (to put it briefly, since we know that its definition is in itself highly problematic) we have often been passive “receptors” of problematizations and concepts elaborated in other cultural contexts, especially the “North”. But has that always been the case? Have not there also been works worthy of being explored, which show a complex convergence of simultaneous problematizations between the “South” and the “North”? At the intersection between studies on social theory, intellectual history, and/or history of social and political concepts, this panel invites researchers of those fields interested in the operations involved in those readings and appropriations that took place through the most varied cultural contexts. Contributions are expected to reflect on these issues taking into account the respective theoretical and methodological strategies; the comparison based on confluences and divergences (among the contributions of different authors); and/or the analysis of exemplary cases, in which the various intellectual operations (adaptations, revisions, appropriations, new conceptual creations) that are brought into play can be observed when a perspective or a certain intellectual tradition “reads” or “receives” others, or when certain authors/schools/currents of thought/problems are recoded, reconverted and transposed, giving place to other types of discourse.

Composition of the Board for the Period 2014-2018

President

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