



History of  
Sociology

## NEWSLETTER May 2021

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### Letter From the President of RC08

Dear colleagues and friends,

As you know, the ISA has decided to postpone the next ISA Congress in Melbourne to June 2023. It was the good decision to take, but 2023 is closed and far from now. Closed, because the time is going fast; it only two years from now. But far, because for an RC or a scientific association not to have regular meetings has an impact on the dynamics of its scientific life. Think about the young scholars and researchers at the beginning of their career: they need to present the results of their first studies, meet colleagues and build their networks at the national and international levels. The last Forum was on-line, and has been in a way a success - it has been less expensive for everybody - but it isn't as good as a face-to-face conference. And to go to Melbourne will be expensive for a lot of our colleagues, although Australia is a wonderful country for an international conference in sociology.

During the next two years, as an RC, we have to be more active, first getting more members and also multiplying our activities: publication of our Newsletter, editions of special issues of journals, organisation of debates on-line, etc. Why not a web site? We have to know more about the activities of our members and develop a strong intellectual community between us. It has been a characteristic of our RC during the last decade.

I will conclude my short letter with a personal comment. I'm back from the hospital after a short surgery. Coming back at home, I got a good surprise: I received from my publisher, the Arab Centre for Research and Policy Studies, 5 copies of the translation of my book on Émile Durkheim, in Arabic. More than 1500 pages, more pages than the French edition with a lot of new footnotes added by the translator, a very well-known professor in literature in Casablanca, Morocco,



(cont.)

Fatimazarha Zryouil. A wonderful translation, according to the editor. And a great honour! But what is the meaning of this event? It is a (fat) book about Émile Durkheim, the founder of sociology in France. I hope the publication of the book will give to the new generations of Arabic sociologists the opportunity to discover the life, the work and the team of one of the founders of our disciplines. Long life to Durkheim, Maus and co.

Take care, read, do research, teach, communicate and publish! And be active in your academic world and your city.

Marcel Fournier  
RC 08 President

## Letter from the Editor

I am somewhat surprised to find this year so similar to 2020 in many ways. Like many others, I assumed the strange and frightening events of 2020 would not be repeated in 2021. We were wrong, and the world nightmare is still with us. I write to you from Sydney, and Australia has been the 'Lucky Country' in many ways, where the worst part for many Australians has been the social and physical isolation from co-workers, clients, students, friends and family. The early effects of covid were tragic, as the virus entered our aged care facilities where the private sector operators were completely unprepared. We all learned, quite quickly, how to manage covid - by shutting borders, putting travellers into isolation facilities, and using our skills at contact-tracing (a hard set of lessons we learned from the HIV/AIDS pandemic). With buildings, institutions and borders shut, and financial assistance to individuals and businesses from government; life has been difficult and tedious but generally not life threatening for most Australians. We have however, lived with internal borders opening and shutting with little notice, which has made planning rather difficult and kept many people from their work, while closed borders to the outside world - our international borders - have virtually destroyed the tourist industry and shut down the international student trade, severely damaging university budgets. (Mind you, many universities have used covid as an excuse to retrench thousands of staff and shut down courses and whole departments; clearly strategies they had wanted to implement for other reasons). Closed international borders of course, has made it impossible for Australians who reside abroad to come home - a matter that is before the courts at the moment. Is it even legal to stop Australian citizens from returning to their country? If it is, then what does citizenship mean? What is the value of an Australian passport? These are the questions we are all asking. We might soon find out.

As I put this edition together, I think of our members who are in great peril from the covid disease - and from our governments' responses (which are almost equally perilous in some cases) - and wish you safety during these difficult times. And as my personal contribution to assisting with the task of keeping in touch with our field and with one other, I offer you this newsletter. Thank you everyone who has contributed! We now have 106 fully paid up members - and a few more who have let their memberships slip (please check you are paid up! I am purposely slow at removing past members from the newsletters and communications). I hope you find many things of interest in this newsletter and that it will help you to maintain some connection during these rather dark days. And don't forget to think about things you might contribute to future editions.

Yours in collegiality,

Fran Collyer  
Secretary, RC08



## On the creation of the section “History of sociology” within the German Sociological Association

**Stephan Moebius and Nicole Holzhauser<sup>1</sup>**

*Abstract:*

*This note describes the creation of the new section 'History of Sociology' of the German Sociological Association. It deals with the various activities which prepared for the institutionalisation as well as with the intellectual and professional self-understanding of the new section.*

German-speaking sociology looks back on more than 100 years of institutional existence. The German Sociological Association (GSA) was founded some 110 years ago while the first chairs at universities emerged a century ago. These anniversaries have contributed in past years to generate a demand for as well as an offer of research in the history of sociology. Recently, this socio-historical self-reflection has obtained an official institutional form as a section of the GSA. On 26 September, 2019 the council of the GSA accepted the proposition from 58 German-speaking sociologists for the establishment of a section 'History of sociology'. Corresponding to our own preference for research in the history of sociology, the following account presents the new section against the background of its genesis.

The creation of the section was preceded by diverse activities over recent years which prepared for the institutionalisation: publications, teaching and research activities - which supported especially junior researchers - and first steps within the GSA as a Working Group (WG). For example, new publication outlets were founded, including the yearbook *Syklos. Jahrbuch für Theorie und Geschichte der Soziologie* (e.g. Endreß et al. 2015; Endreß and Moebius 2019) and the book series *Klassiker der Sozialwissenschaften* (ed. by Klaus Lichtblau and Stephan Moebius). The latter publishes out-of-print or altogether unknown texts in the social sciences (e.g. Coser 2009; recent publications are Parsons 2019; Mannheim 2019), and thus makes them available for a broader public. There is also a recently founded journal, *Serendipities – Journal for the Sociology and History of the Social Sciences*<sup>2</sup> as well as special issues in existing sociological journals<sup>3</sup>. Soon also a Wiki, dedicated to the history of sociology, will go online, supported by members of the section. Moreover, the book *Sociology in Germany* (Moebius 2021) will be published in the series 'Sociology Transformed' (edited by Stephen Turner and John Holmwood), as well as the first volume of the five-volume series on sociology in the interwar period in the German-speaking world (Acham and Moebius 2021).

In addition to these publications, interested social scientists have been meeting regularly for a few years to exchange ideas on the history of sociology. An important stimulus for the institutionalisation of the section in the German-speaking world came from the annual Spring Schools of the doctoral programme 'Sociology and History of the Social and Cultural Sciences'<sup>4</sup> at the University of Graz, held since 2011,

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<sup>1</sup> The authors have written this article on behalf of the section. The current members of the section's board are Stephan Moebius (speaker), Nicole Holzhauser (deputy), Claudius Härpfer, Takemitsu Morikawa and Andrea Ploder. Uwe Dörk, Jochen Dreher, Karl-Siebert Rehberg and Oliver Römer have supported the initiative and the application process. We would also like to thank the many supporters of the history of sociology for their engagement.

<sup>2</sup> This journal has been published online since 2016: <http://serendipities.uni-graz.at/index.php/serendipities>.

<sup>3</sup> See for example the special issue 56 of the *Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie* on the history of sociology as seen through the history of the *Kölner Zeitschrift* (Moebius 2017), or the 2015 issue *National Socialism and the Crisis of Sociology* of the *Österreichische Zeitschrift für Soziologie*. Topics from the history of sociology feature also in the GSA's central outlet *Soziologie* and on the online platform *Soziopolis* which addresses a broader public.

<sup>4</sup> <http://doktoratsprogramm-geschichte-soziologie-sozialwissenschaften.uni-graz.at/de/spring-schools>



as well as the workshops on the history of German-speaking sociology, held since 2014. The first of these workshops took place in Graz in 2014, organised by Andrea Ploder and Stephan Moebius.<sup>5</sup> Many research collaborations grew from these networks. It is no coincidence that the meetings were regularly organised at locations where there are archives of the social sciences<sup>6</sup> (Braunstein 2017; Dreher 2017; Holzhauser 2017; Müller 2017; Sonnenfeld 2017), and where research projects on the history of sociology are currently being realised. In this way, an informal network on the *History of sociology* grew constantly over the past ten years, including both junior and senior researchers.

Out of this environment grew also the *Handbook History of German-Speaking Sociology (Handbuch Geschichte der deutschsprachigen Soziologie*, Moebius and Ploder 2017, 2018; Holzhauser et al. 2019; Knöbl 2019; Moebius and Strauss 2021; Strauss 2021). The handbook expresses the ambition of integrating the history of sociology strongly into social scientific theory, methodology and research procedures. The central idea is that a reflexive examination of the history of sociology – including a discussion of its aims and different methodological approaches (Dayé and Moebius 2015) – makes an important contribution to the further development of the whole discipline (Holzhauser 2016).

In recent years, activities in the history of sociology were also hosted by or linked to other institutions. There were, for example, *ad hoc* groups at the congresses of the GSA and activities within projects of the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG), such as the network on the *Sociology of Sociological Knowledge* (Fransen et al. 2019). Moreover, there are contacts to numerous organisations and sub-organisations in the history of sociology, such as the section *History of Sociology* of the Austrian Association for Sociology (ÖGS); the *Research Committee on the History of Sociology* of the International Sociological Association (ISA); the section *History of Sociology* of the American Sociological Association (ASA); the work group on the history of sociology (Karl Acham, Stephan Moebius) within the *Commission for the History and Philosophy of Science* at the *Austrian Academy of Sciences* (ÖAW); and the *Network on the History of Empirical Social Research (and Statistics)* (NHESR). These links with other organisations create, on the one hand, synergies within the German-speaking world. On the other hand, they contribute to internationalising German-speaking history of sociology, also beyond the Anglo-American world.

The foundation of the section within the GSA was preceded by a one-year existence as a 'Work Group' of the 'History of Sociology', constituted at the congress in Göttingen in 2018. Why was the section actually called "History of Sociology" (*Soziologiegeschichte*)? Following Lothar Peter (2015: 114 sq.), we distinguish terminologically between the history of sociology as a domain of enquiry – in German, *Soziologiegeschichte* – and the history of sociology as a real process – *Geschichte der Soziologie*.<sup>7</sup> History of sociology in the first sense means the autonomous sociological research domain which studies the history of sociology in the second sense of the real historical development in sociological theory construction, research and institutionalisation, as well as all the other phenomena concerning the relationship between sociology and society. The history of sociology in the second sense (*Geschichte der Soziologie*), is thus the object of investigation of the research domain History of sociology (*Soziologiegeschichte*).

If we conceive science as a social process – as the sociologies of science, knowledge and culture have shown – then this insight also applies to sociology itself. The self-clarification on the origin and development of the discipline, including theoretical concepts, methodological instruments, agents, institutions and contexts, is in our view an indispensable condition for critically reflected research, for the understanding of the historical identity of the discipline as well as its actual shape and its further potential. Since sociology is itself part of the society which it examines, and since sociology is precisely

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<sup>5</sup> The following workshops were held in 2015 at the Institut for Social Research in Frankfurt/Main, organised by Dirk Braunstein and Fabian Link; in 2016 in Constance at the Archive for the Social Sciences, organised by Jochen Dreher; in 2017 at the Technical University of Brunswick, organised by Nicole Holzhauser and Stephan Moebius; in 2018 at the occasion of the congress of the GSA in Göttingen; and in 2019 at KWI Essen, organised by Uwe Dörk and Alexander Wiersock.

<sup>6</sup> The archives in question are the Archive for the History of Sociology in Austria in Graz, the Archive of the Institut for Social Research in Frankfurt/Main, the Archive for the Social Sciences in Constance and the Theodor Geiger-Archives in Brunswick.

<sup>7</sup> This terminological distinction is difficult to render in English.

the science which is concerned with the embeddedness of science in social processes, interests and historical constellations; it is constitutive of the discipline to engage in socio-historical reflection on its own past. In this perspective, the history of sociology fulfils a critical function which no other sociological sub-discipline can offer (Römer 2016). By focussing on historical change and the interconnection of sociology and society, it provides contemporary social scientific research with additional historical depth.

The crucial assumption of research in the history of sociology then, is that all social-scientific theories and methods are reflexive responses to social processes and to situations which are perceived as problematic, all the while being products of processes internal to the social-scientific field (Moebius 2019). Analyses in the history of sociology are thus concerned with how sociologists perceive and interpret 'their' societies. In this way, the history of sociology can be conceived as a reflexive history of the sociological observation of society.

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## **The Relaunch of *Serendipities* – Journal for the Sociology and History of the Social Sciences**

### *Call for Papers*

Welcome to the relaunch of *Serendipities – Journal for the Sociology and History of the Social Sciences*. As of December 2020, the journal is hosted by the Royal Danish Library (<https://tidsskrift.dk/Serendipities>). To mark our move to a new host and the reconfiguration of the editorial team, we welcome contributions to the journal, particularly those articles and book reviews that address the sociology and history of the social sciences in the broadest meaning of the description.

While its title pays homage to Robert K. Merton and his insistence that the development of any scholarly activity is influenced by unanticipated and anomalous instances, the journal does not expect contributors to follow a narrowly defined program. Rather it seeks to encourage the use of a variety of concepts, methodologies and theories to study the trajectories of the social sciences. The pertinent time span ranges from the pre-history of the several disciplines, through to the period of their formation and their consolidation (or their decline). Papers are welcome from any theoretical or methodological perspective that covers any of these periods. Case studies or investigations of longer lasting developments, papers focusing on a single scholar or on groups, schools, and research trends are equally appreciated by the journal so long as they conclude with more or less generalising insights.

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What we expect ideally would be a combination of the best of what can be called “sociology/history of” perspective, i.e. inquiries which belong to what Wolf Lepenies has called third culture – a field that occupies a unique space between science and literature, marked by both but also carving out a space of its own. Papers are free to look at social science disciplines from a historical point of view or challenge present day practices.

Beyond that we would like to see contributions that cover the development of methodologies and research techniques, the institutionalisation processes of disciplines and research directions, “traveling ideas” from one scholarly culture or country to another, the question of drawing “boundaries” between the various social sciences, the role of funding agencies, and papers that discuss relations between the social sciences, the state, and social movements.

Interaction(s) of social science with publics are a matter of great concern too. We particularly invite submissions that engage with the still underdeveloped field of sociological semantics, prosopography, and advanced quantitative and qualitative methods.

*Serendipities publishes three kinds of texts:*

**Articles** report and discuss research results, develop theoretical arguments, or offer a combination of both. An article has to be concerned with the sociology and history of the social sciences and should demonstrate how it adds to our understanding by relating to and positioning itself vis-à-vis the relevant literature.

**Book reviews** are intended to present and assess new publications in the field. There are no restrictions with regard to the language of the reviewed publication. It is the explicit aim of the editors that this section will function as a forum for critical evaluation of new publications and as a platform for those who are not able to read them in the original. In addition to standard-length book reviews, we therefore encourage longer reviews that present a book’s organisation, argumentation and construction in greater detail and from a critical perspective. In addition, we welcome bulk reviews of two or more books. These could be organised around the methodologies used, disciplines, periods, countries, or scholars, etc. If you would like to review books, please address Kristoffer Kropp ([kkropp@ruc.dk](mailto:kkropp@ruc.dk)) or Stéphane Dufoix ([stephane.dufoix@parisnanterre.fr](mailto:stephane.dufoix@parisnanterre.fr)).

A third section is the **Forum**, where different kinds of texts and materials can be published. These can be archival materials, i.e., items from the past that are deemed valuable enough to be made more visible (e.g., letters, unpublished manuscripts, administrative documents, etc.), together with short commentaries on the significance of the documents. Second, the “Forum” section also functions as a platform for debate, inviting authors to reflect on distinct features related to the past and present of the social sciences, articulating criticism, or voicing one’s opinion. We also welcome interviews with social scientists from different countries.

For submissions please visit <https://tidsskrift.dk/Serendipities/about/submissions>. Alternatively, authors are encouraged to write to the managing editors: Matthias Duller ([DullerM@ceu.edu](mailto:DullerM@ceu.edu)) or Andreas Kranebitter ([andreas.kranebitter@uni-graz.at](mailto:andreas.kranebitter@uni-graz.at)).

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## Member's Notices

**Stephan Moebius:** Notice of a special issue: *History of Sociology*. In: *Soziologie – Sociology in the German-Speaking world. Special Issue Sociologische Revue, Sonderband 2020, 2021*, S. 181-196. **OPEN ACCESS.** [DOI: 10.1515/9783110627275-013](https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110627275-013)

**Stephan Moebius:** Notice of an interview on the situation of the history of sociology in Germany in the *Revue d'histoire des sciences humaines*: “*Creating a new field of activities together*”. An interview with Stephan Moebius about the historiography of German-speaking sociology.  
<https://journals.openedition.org/rhsh/5466>

**Fernanda Beigel:** a sociology conference at the Faculty in Mendoza.





**Paolo Parra Saiani:** “Quaderni di Sociologia” – an Italian journal of sociology founded in 1951 – just published a special issue (n. 83/2020) edited by Paolo Parra Saiani and dedicated to the colour line in the history of sociology and its consequences.

Open access at <https://journals.openedition.org/qds/4019>, with articles in English by Aldon Morris, Walter R. Allen, Audrey Devost and Cymone Mack, Krista Margaret Johnson, Michael Schwarts and Paolo Parra Saiani.

## **Gabriel Faimau and Nina Baur: Call for papers (Conference Organisers)**

We hereby invite you to submit an abstract for the session 'Decolonising Social Science Methodology – Overcoming Positivism and Constructivism', organised by Nina Baur, Manuela Boatcă, Fraya Frehse and Johanna Hoerning (Germany and Brasil) at the Online-Conference '1st International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods' (SMUS Conference) and “1st RC33 Regional Conference – Africa: Botswana” in cooperation with ESA RN21 “Quantitative Methods” 23 – 26.09.2021, organised and hosted online by the University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana. The deadline for submission is 31.05.2021. Please find details on the session, the conference and the submission process below.

**Session “Decolonising Social Science Methodology – Overcoming Positivism and Constructivism** Session Organisers: Nina Baur, Manuea Boatcă, Fraya Frehse and Johanna Hoerning (Germany and Brasil)

Epistemological approaches in the tradition of e.g. constructivism, relativism, postmodernism or postcolonialism stress that empirical findings are strongly influenced both by the researcher’s social position and positioning in the world system and by the social organisation of doing science. Sociology of science has provided strong empirical evidence for this position. This means that, if researchers find (dis)similarities between different social contexts, it is not clear at all, if these (dis)similarities result from actual substantial differences or rather e.g. from diverging theoretical perspectives, research styles, ways of doing methods or different reactions of the field to social science research. At the same time, approaches in the tradition of e.g. positivism or critical radicalism stress that it is important that science upholds the ideals of searching for truth, intersubjectivity and empirical evidence and that relativism itself is also a fallacy because – if you take this serious – what is the difference between “fake news” and “alternative facts” and scientific knowledge? Moreover, many research questions in the social sciences require to be sure about (dis)similarities between contexts, e.g. in social inequality research. So far, suggestions to overcome these contrasting demands on social science methodology have mostly focussed on methods, e.g. by mixing methods or applying cross-cultural survey methods. In contrast, the session aims at addressing the underlying deeper epistemological and methodological issues which remain mainly unresolved: Papers should ask how to overcome the divide between positivism and constructivism and to truly decolonise social science methodology.

### **Submission of Papers**

All sessions have to comply with the conference organisation rules (see below). If you want to present a paper, please submit your abstract via the official conference website: <https://gcsmus.org> until 31.05.2021. You will be informed by 31.07.2021, if your proposed paper has been accepted for presentation at the conference. For further information, please see the conference website or contact the session organisers, Nina Baur, Manuea Boatcă, Fraya Frehse and Johanna Hoerning [nina.baur@tu-berlin.de](mailto:nina.baur@tu-berlin.de)

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[fraya@usp.br](mailto:fraya@usp.br); [johanna.hoerning@tu-berlin.de](mailto:johanna.hoerning@tu-berlin.de)



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### **About the Conference**

The “Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability” (GCSMUS) together with the Research Committee on “Logic and Methodology in Sociology” (RC33) of the “International Sociology Association” (ISA) and the Research Network “Quantitative Methods” (RN21) of the European Sociology Association” (ESA) will organise a “1<sup>st</sup> International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods” (“SMUS Conference”) which will at the same time be the “1<sup>st</sup> RC33 Regional Conference – Africa: Botswana” from Thursday 23.09 – Sunday 26.09.2021, hosted by the University of Botswana in Gaborone, Botswana. Given the current challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference will convene entirely **online**. The conference aims at promoting a global dialogue on methods and should attract methodologists from all over the world and all social and spatial sciences (e.g. area studies, architecture, communication studies, educational sciences, geography, historical sciences, humanities, landscape planning, philosophy, psychology, sociology, urban design, urban planning, traffic planning and environmental planning). Thus, the conference will enable scholars to get in contact with methodologists from various disciplines all over the world and to deepen discussions with researchers from various methodological angles. Scholars of all social and spatial sciences and other scholars who are interested in methodological discussions are invited to submit a paper to any sessions of the conference. All papers have to address a methodological problem.

Please find more information on the above institutions on the following websites:

- “Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability” (GCSMUS): <https://gcsmus.org> and [www.mes.tu-berlin.de/spatialmethods](http://www.mes.tu-berlin.de/spatialmethods)
- ISA RC33: <http://rc33.org/>
- ESA RN21: [www.europeansociology.org/research-networks/rn21-quantitative-methods](http://www.europeansociology.org/research-networks/rn21-quantitative-methods)
- University of Botswana in Gaborone: [www.ub.bw](http://www.ub.bw)

If you are interested in getting **further information on the conference** and other GCSMUS activities, please **subscribe to the GCSMUS newsletter** by registering via the following website: <https://lists.tu-berlin.de/mailman/listinfo/mes-smusnews>

### **Rules for Session Organisation (According to GCSMUS Objectives and RC 33 Statutes)**

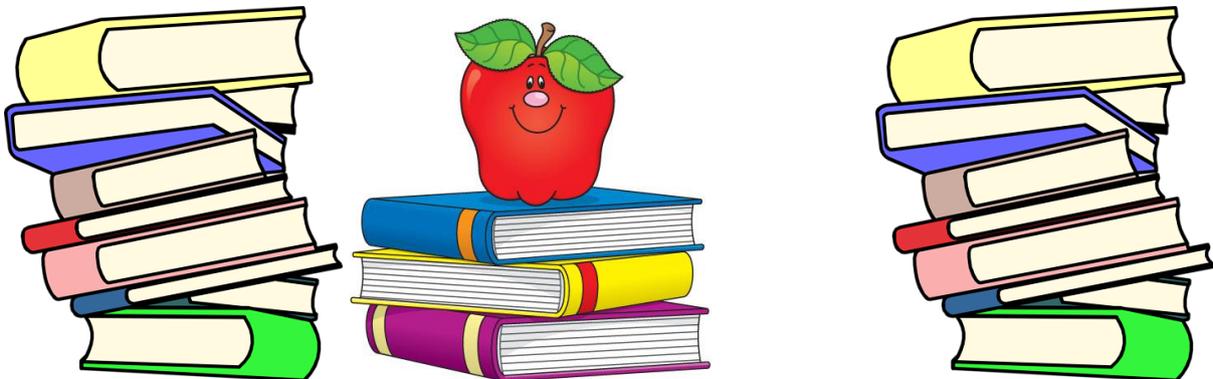
1. There will be **no conference fees**.
2. The conference language is **English**. All papers therefore need to be presented in English.
3. All sessions have to be **international**: Each session should have speakers from at least two countries (exceptions will need good reasons).
4. Each paper must contain a **methodological problem** (any area, qualitative or quantitative).
5. There will be several calls for abstracts via the GCSMUS, RC33 and RN21 Newsletters. To begin with, session organisers can prepare a call for abstracts on their own initiative, then at a different time, there will be a common call for abstracts, and session organisers can ask anybody to submit a paper.
6. GCSMUS, RC33 and RN21 members may distribute these calls via other channels. GCSMUS members and session organisers are expected to actively advertise their session in their respective scientific communities.
7. Speakers can only have **one talk per session**. This also applies for joint papers. It will not be possible for A and B to present at the same time one paper as B and A during the same session. This would just extend the time allocated to these speakers.
8. Session organisers may present a paper in their own session.
9. Sessions will have a length of 90 minutes with a maximum of 4 papers or a length of 120 minutes with a maximum of 6 papers. Session organisers can invite as many speakers as they like.

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The number of sessions depends on the number of papers submitted to each session. E.g. if 12 good papers are submitted to a session, there will be two sessions with a length of 90 minutes each with 6 papers in each session.

10. Papers may only be rejected for the conference if they do not present a methodological problem (as stated above), are not in English or are somehow considered by session organisers as not being appropriate or relevant for the conference. Session organisers may ask authors to revise and resubmit their paper so that it fits these requirements. If session organisers do not wish to consider a paper submitted to their session, they should inform the author and forward the paper to the local organising team who will find a session where the paper fits for presentation.

11. Papers directly addressed to the conference organising committee (and those forwarded from session organisers) will be offered to other session organisers (after proofing for quality). The session organisers will have to decide on whether or not the paper can be included in their session(s). If the session organisers think that the paper does not fit into their session(s), the papers should be sent back to the conference organising committee as soon as possible so that the committee can offer the papers to another session organiser.



## Call for Papers: Special Issue of Serendipities

### Serendipities – Special Issue Robert K. Merton's Normative Structure at 80

In an essay entitled "The Normative Structure of Science" Robert K. Merton described the ethos of science as comprising four dimensions or criteria (Merton actually called them 'imperatives'): universalism, communism, disinterestedness and organised scepticism.

The text is dated '1942'; however, most people will have read the text in one of its reprinted versions, e.g., in Merton's *The Sociology of Science* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press 1973, 267-278).

(cont.)

Just to recall the argument briefly:

(1) Universalism referred to the fact that truth claims in science need to be free of "pre-established personal and social attributes" such as race, nationality and class (he forgot to mention sex and/or gender).

(2) Communism referred to the maxim that there should be neither exclusive nor personal possession of the research findings, i.e., all results should be treated as part and parcel of a common heritage and enterprise and should therefore be shared. Researchers should not see their results as exclusive property. However, this did not mean that the individual researcher (or team) should not be properly named, credited and acknowledged in relation to his/her/their achievement, findings or discoveries.

(3) Disinterestedness stood for the way the research was conducted and communicated. There should be no fraud, no personal gain but only moral integrity, something that public and testable results will have to scrutinise and watch over. Ultimately, the researcher should only be accountable to his fellow researchers and the larger scientific community.

(4) Organised scepticism should guide the research throughout the research process. The results should be subject to systematic scrutiny. In this sense competition can serve as a healthy corrector. Any overlapping interest with any institutions or organisations or their agenda and special interests should be seen with sceptical eyes and screened and assessed critically for potential bias.

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In light of the developments that have taken place since RKM first formulated these four imperatives, it is high time to take a closer look at their validity and whether these maxims still can legitimately claim to govern what goes on in the sciences, particularly in connection with moral dimensions and/or the ethics of research.

As the title of his original paper suggests, RKM penned the text with the sciences in mind. It would be helpful to elaborate further and discuss whether these maxims also had any consequences for investigations either in the social sciences or in the humanities. What is ethical research? What are its moral impulses? What happened to other relevant questions not raised in RKM's text such as societal 'mores'/'Sittlichkeit' and their relation to research? Can these be reduced to mere use and impact?

An "ethicisation" of scholarship seems to be in vogue, a development indicated by the creation of ethics codes, special boards of ethical approval of research proposals, and noticeable also in other forms of ethical rhetoric used by scholars. Different but not entirely unrelated are contemporary debates concerned with 'open science', 'open sources' and similar topics related to research policies, all of them painting a very different scholarly environment compared to the one RKM originally had in mind.

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We are looking for contributions that take Merton's list as an opportunity to reflect upon the changes that have occurred over the last 80 years. We are also interested in those who think that the Mertonian spirit is still alive and well and perhaps just needs to be amended.

Papers that cover the field of science are welcome as long as the author draws comparisons to the social sciences and the humanities. It is our stated aim, however, that the planned special issue should focus mainly on the applicability and relevance of the Mertonian norms to the social sciences and the humanities.

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We are particularly interested in arguments that have a historical perspective or dimension, yet we remain open to questions that relate to the present condition of the social sciences and those disciplines in the humanities that make use of the social sciences either theoretically or methodologically.

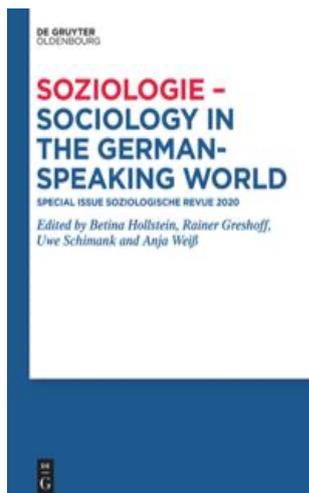
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Timetable: We ask interested authors to send to both editors (see below) an abstract of not more than 800 words before June 30, 2021. Accepted proposals should be submitted by the end of 2021. After this each paper will be peer reviewed and we expect to publish the special issue in the first half of 2022.

Contact:

Christian Fleck (Vienna): [fleck@ihs.ac.at](mailto:fleck@ihs.ac.at) and  
Andreas Hess (Dublin): [a.hess@ucd.ie](mailto:a.hess@ucd.ie)

## Member's Publications



**Stephan Moebius** 'History of Sociology' in *Soziologie – Sociology in the German-Speaking World*. Special Issue *Sociologische Revue*, Sonderband 2020, 2021, S. 181-196. OPEN ACCESS

DOI: [10.1515/9783110627275-013](https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110627275-013)

Abstract: This article deals with the developments, trends, and essence of research in studies on the history of sociology in the German-speaking world since 2000. It discusses studies on the methodology of the history of sociology, publications on the institutionalisation of sociology, on early and modern classics, on national and transnational historiography, and on sociology in face of National Socialism. Although the history of sociology is only rudimentarily institutionalised, especially in Germany, and there are almost no chairs or specialist journals for the history of sociology, we can nevertheless discern a spirit of optimism among younger researchers in this field. At the same time, we still lack a productive exchange with other historiographic sciences.

Keywords: History of sociology, sociology in German-speaking countries, classics of sociology, methodology of the history of sociology



**Fran M Collyer** and Ben Manning (2021) 'Writing national histories of sociology: Methods, approaches and visions' *Journal of Sociology* 1–18. [request copy from author if interested]

*Abstract*

There has been a renewal of interest in the writing of national histories of sociology, with dozens of histories recently published in both the global North and South. Despite this, there has been a dearth of discussion about the methods and methodologies appropriate to such a task. Indeed, few histories of sociology, and fewer still national histories of sociology, explicitly address methodology. In this study, we review the literature on histories of sociology from a variety of countries, focusing on how the authors have approached the writing of history, and their implicit use of methods and methodologies. We suggest the use of a content analysis as an additional, though perhaps unusual, method of historiography, and apply this in the case of an Australian history of sociology. Our content analysis reveals both similarities and differences in the Australian approach, indicating the impact of settler-colonialism on Australian sociology and its historiography.

*Keywords*

Australian sociology, historiography, methodology, methods, national histories, sociology of knowledge

**Jiří Šubrt** (2020) *The Systemic Approach in Sociology and Niklas Luhmann: Expectations, Discussions, Doubts*. Emerald Press.



THE SYSTEMIC APPROACH  
IN SOCIOLOGY AND  
NIKLAS LUHMANN:  
EXPECTATIONS,  
DISCUSSIONS, DOUBTS

JIRÍ ŠUBRT

This book is a comprehensive overview of the theoretical discussion of one of most important conceptions in sociology at the end of 20th century - the theory of social systems. The spotlight of this book falls on the work of Niklas Luhmann and his holistic approach. Current modern society is, for Luhmann, a functionally differentiated society, which means that a number of specialised societal sub-systems (politics, economics, religion, law, science, art etc) have formed. Each system is based on its own type of communication led by its own generalised communicative media. Luhmann controversially depicts modern society as a plurality of many societal subsystems operating without a top and without a coordinating and managing centre. This book weighs the strong and weak features of the systemic approach in sociology and discusses ways to rethink it.

Contents

- Chapter 1. Dream or Myth? (Introduction)
- Chapter 2. The dream of a united conception of science
- Chapter 3. What is the right starting point for sociological thought?
- Chapter 4. A Dream of integration of theory and society (Parsons)
- Chapter 5. The Dream of the Sociological Super-theory (Luhmann)
- Chapter 6. Reflections on Possibilities of Application of System Approach at Macrosocial Level

<https://books.emeraldinsight.com/page/detail/The-Systemic-Approach-in-Sociology-and-Niklas-Luhmann/?k=9781839090325>

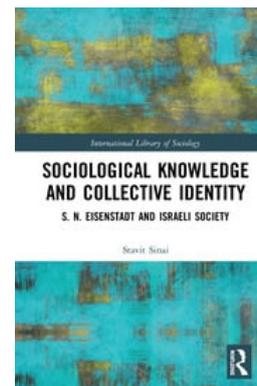
**Lidiane Soares Rodrigues** (2020) 'Brazilian political scientists and the Cold War: Soviet hearts, North-American minds (1966-1988)' *Science in Context* 33(2), 145-169.

The process of institutionalisation of Political Science in Brasil was conditioned by the country's position in the geo-political scenario proper to the Cold War, strongly affected by the influence of the USA and, later on, by the military dictatorship experienced between 1964 and 1985. The first Brazilian professionalised political scientists were, during their youth, anti-Stalinist revolutionary militants. They had been financed by the Ford Foundation (FF) to pursue their PhDs in the USA. In this paper, I argue that the north-American model of ideological war included governmental and non-governmental institutions. Among the latter, the FF played a crucial role because it had a lot of credibility in state bureaucracy and was able to captivate the potential co-partners, who would benefit from its grant, even the anti-American ones. The FF was able to do so because it was keeping a distance from the bellicose image of the USA. In this way, because Brazilian youngsters were leftist, the FF was interested in financing their studies. And, because they belonged to the anti-Stalinist left, they were more open than the communists and wouldn't oppose to exchange with the USA.

Keywords: Anticommunism; Brazilian Political Scientists; Cold War Social Sciences.

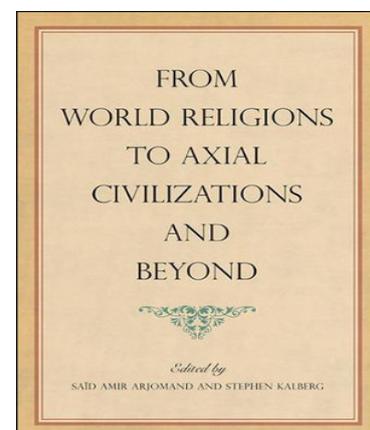
**Stavit Sinai** (2019) *Sociological Knowledge and Collective Identity: S.N. Eisenstadt and Israeli Society*. Routledge, International Library of Sociology.

Link: <https://www.routledge.com/Sociological-Knowledge-and-Collective-Identity-S-N-Eisenstadt-and-Israeli/Sinai/p/book/9781138351837>



**Said Arjomand and Stephen Kalberg** (eds) (2021) *From World Religions to Axial Civilisations and Beyond*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press.

The post-World War II idea of the Axial Age by Karl Jaspers, and as elaborated into the sociology of axial civilisations by S. N. Eisenstadt in the later twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, continues to be the subject of intense scholarly debate. Examples of this can be found in recent works of Hans Joas and Jurgen Habermas. In *From World Religions to Axial Civilisations and Beyond*, an internationally distinguished group of scholars discuss, advance, and criticise the Jaspers-Eisenstadt thesis, and go beyond it by bringing in the critical influence of Max Weber's sociology of world religions and by exploring inter-civilisational encounters in key world regions. The essays within this volume are of unusual interest for their original analysis of relatively neglected civilisational zones, especially Islam and the Islamicate civilisation and the Byzantine civilisation, and its continuation in Orthodox Russia.



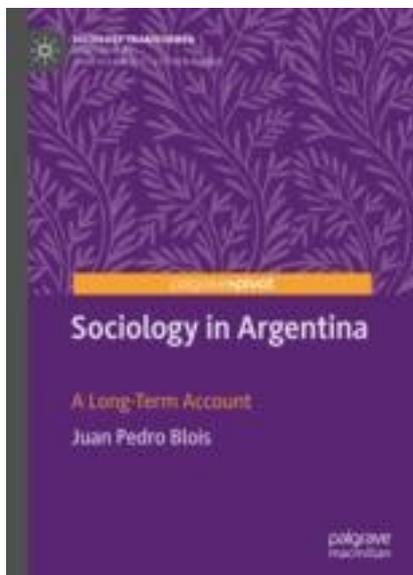
**Fernanda Beigel and Osvaldo Gallardo** (2021) 'Publishing Performance, Bibliodiversity and Bilingualism in a Complete Corpus of Scientific Publications' *Revista Iberoamericana de Ciencia, Tecnología y Sociedad* —CTS, 16(46), 41-71.

Available at:

<https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/H5WoC5QPXJiSplDjhsj5ik?domain=revistacts.net>.

**Pedro Blois** *Sociology in Argentina. A Long-Term Account*. Palgrave Macmillan. The book can be found in this link:

<https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783030635190>



This Palgrave Pivot offers a comprehensive portrayal of the development of sociology in Argentina from the mid-1950s to the present day. This first long-term account in English maps the discipline's troubled trajectory and its close relation to the broader (and turbulent) Argentinian political and economic context, and provides a dramatic exemplification of the politicisation and polarisation of an academic field and its consequences. Divided into seven chapters, this book examines the sharply different phases that the discipline went through: from the pioneering 1950s, in which sociology was presented as a "science", to the activist revolt in the 1960s, led by the student movement, to the traumatic experience of the 1970s, when a cruel dictatorship was established and many sociologists were persecuted, and from its progressive recovery from the 1980s to its current growing (yet unstable) presence within academia, and within state agencies, corporations and consulting agencies, and NGOs. This work will appeal to social scientists and students interested in the relations between academia and politics, and to a general readership interested in the recent history of Argentina and Latin-America.

**Stephan Moebius** (forthcoming, June 2021) *Sociology in Germany. A History*, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.

**Stephan Moebius** Soziologie der Zwischenkriegszeit. Ihre Hauptströmungen und zentralen Themen im deutschen Sprachraum. Band 1 (edited with Karl Acham), 2021 (engl. Sociology in the inter-war period in the German-speaking world, 1st volume of five)

<https://www.springer.com/de/book/9783658313982>

Just out - in 'early view': **A special issue from the Journal of Historical Sociology**, edited by Stéphane Dufoix and Hon-Fai Chen, which had its origins in the conference: **Facing the West: Circulation, Cooperation and Contestation in the Post-War Development of Sociology in Asia** Lingnan University, Hong Kong, June 5-6, 2019.

**Stéphane Dufoix and Hon-Fai Chen** (2021) 'Between the West and the World: Historical Perspectives on the Place of Sociology in Asia' *Journal of Historical Sociology* 34(1): <https://doi.org/10.1111/johs.12318>

**Fran Collyer** (2021) 'Australia and the Global South: Knowledge and the Ambiguities of Place and Identity' *Journal of Historical Sociology* 34(1):1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1111/johs.12312>.

*Abstract*

Australia was settled as a colony of Britain from the 17th century, and its early history of violent occupation has gradually given way to a relatively peaceful, wealthy, multicultural society. As a post-colonial country, its people share characteristics with those of Britain, but, as a multicultural society, national identity is increasingly influenced by the cultures of many countries, from both the global North and South. In this paper, the question of Australia's placement as a country of the global North or South is explored. Considerations of geography, the economy, political regimes and national identity are the backdrop to an investigation of Australian scholarship and the attitudes of scholars to the inclusion of Australia as a country of the global South.

**Stéphane Dufoix** (2021) 'Under Western Eyes? Elements for a Transnational and International History of Sociology in Asia (1960s–1980s)' *Journal of Historical Sociology* 34(1) <https://doi.org/10.1111/johs.12319>

*Abstract*

Very few articles or chapters account for the history of sociology in Asia as a whole or for its inception from the late 19th century, especially in Japan, China and India. The following article, partly based on archival evidence, takes into consideration two important elements that bind together the various developments of sociology in Asia after World War II, namely calls for a better relevance of concepts and theories in order to fight academic colonialism, and strivings in the 1970s for the organization of an Asian sociological or social science organization. It will end with a short reflection and interrogation on the role of Asia in the world social science archipelago.

**Syed Farid Alatas** (2021) 'Deparochialising the Canon: The Case of Sociological Theory' *Journal of Historical Sociology* 34(1) <https://doi.org/10.1111/johs.12314>

*Abstract*

Sociological theory is not irrelevant to the South but needs to be deparochialised. The parochiality of sociological theory as it exists today can clearly be seen from the canon. The canon would have us believe that sociological theory was the sole creation of a few white men who lived in the nineteenth century. The absence of non-European thinkers in accounts of the history of sociological theory is particularly glaring in cases where non-Europeans had not only contributed to systematic thinking about the nature of society in the modern period but also influenced the development of sociology in the West. Typically, a history of social thought or a course on social thought and theory would cover theorists such as Montesquieu, Vico, Comte, Spencer, Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Simmel, Toennies, Sombart, Mannheim, Pareto, Sumner, Ward, Small, and others. Generally, both

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non-Western thinkers as well as women founders are excluded. Although sociology is slow to take a decolonial turn, there are now efforts to critique and rethink the canon. This article is a contribution in the direction of critiquing and expanding the canon to render it less parochial.



**Sayana Mitupova** (2021) 'Facing Each Other: Japanese and Russian Sociologies' *Journal of Historical Sociology* 34(1) <https://doi.org/10.1111/johs.12321>

*Abstract*

The history of sociology as a subfield has long aimed to describe the historical developments of the discipline, within which national traditions offer unique voices while also contributing to a global sociology. How do various sociological paradigms and national traditions approach social reality in similar and different ways? This paper examines Russian and Japanese contributions to the history of sociology by reviewing some of their major concepts and perspectives. On this basis, this paper seeks to probe into the past and present self-understandings of the two sociological traditions, as well as their potentials for a more active role in global sociological discourse. Both countries have a history of protracted isolation, which has made them more or less invisible in the international sociological community. However, Russian and Japanese sociological traditions exist and are ready to be tapped, even as their production and mobilisation of intellectual resources remain strongly embedded in their politics, cultures, and societies. A broader aim of this paper is to enhance mutual understandings and future collaborations between sociologists in Russia and Japan.

**Sujata Patel** (2021) 'Nationalist Ideas and the Colonial Episteme: The Antinomies Structuring Sociological Traditions of India' *Journal of Historical Sociology* 34(1) <https://doi.org/10.1111/johs.12311>

*Abstract*

The paper traces the growth of sociology in India through three phases. The first phase, it argues, begins in the 30s with the slow consolidation of the discipline. In this phase, sociology was associated with the Indological perspective and the social was perceived in culturist terms and analysed through the prism of the past, in and through Sanskrit texts. In the second phase, which begins in the early 60s, when University education expands in India, this indigenous perspective is re-framed. There is a shift from textual studies to empirical investigation and the village becomes the site for studying Indian civilization. This paper makes a detailed analysis of the social anthropological perspective of M.N. Srinivas whose theories on village and caste influenced the sociological imagination in this phase. The third phase starts in the late 70s with the growth of social movements of the subalterns which challenge the received culturist nationalist sociological imagination. Today sociology together with other social sciences are at crossroads in India due to the impact of neoliberalism. The latter

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has encouraged privatisation of education, decreased state funding in material and human resources and an increased state control on academia. All three have affected the autonomy of the teachers and as well the University system and thus the efforts to chart a new sociological imagination in which the Indian social is perceived in global comparative terms. It is difficult to assess which turn sociology in India will take in these circumstances.

**Hon-Fai Chen** (2021) 'Between North and South: Historicising the Indigenisation Discourse in Chinese Sociology' *Journal of Historical Sociology* 34(1) <https://doi.org/10.1111/johs.12313>

*Abstract*

This paper aims to examine the indigenisation discourse in mainland China by charting its evolution in shifting historical contexts. Three phases are distinguished. In the 1980's, the idea of indigenisation or "sinicisation" was promulgated by Taiwanese and American Chinese social scientists. In taking up the idea, the early indigenisation discourse in mainland China embraced rather than rejected positivism and modernity. The second phase is the 1990's to 2000's, when remarkable efforts at indigenisation were made in the theory of social change, social psychology and post-positivist philosophy. Yet these efforts did not constitute a pointed critique of Western social science. Most recently, there is a revival of interest in the indigenisation idea, as evident in a major controversy over its adequacy and relevance in the Chinese context. While the call for indigenisation is gaining currency, there is a concurrent trend of coalescence with the state-sanctioned program of building "discursive power".

**Shujiro Yazawa** (2021) 'The Indigenisation of American Sociology in Japan: The Contribution of Kazuko Tsurumi' *Journal of Historical Sociology* 34(1) <https://doi.org/10.1111/johs.12320>

*Abstract*

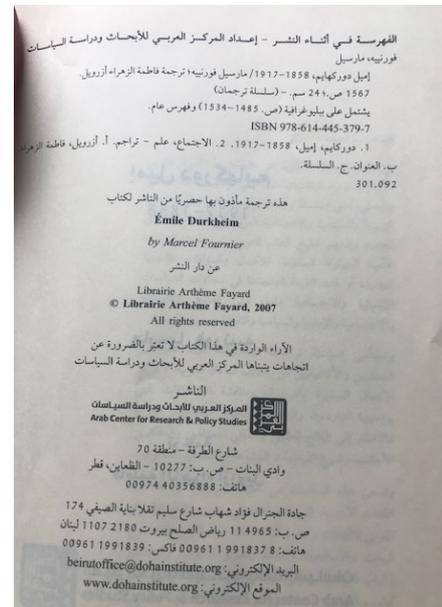
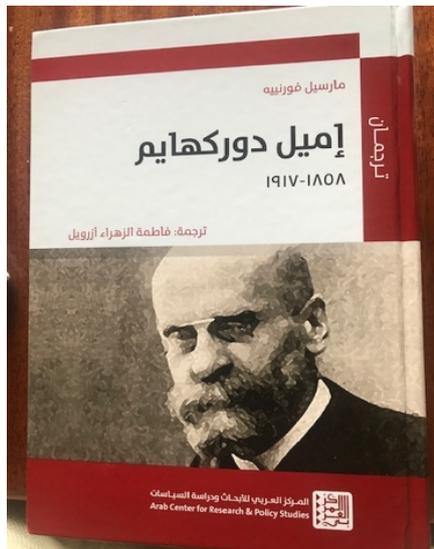
This paper is an investigation of attempts at endogenisation and indigenisation in the history of sociology in Japan. The author begins by presenting a short history of Japanese sociology. While the issues of endogenisation and indigenisation had been raised in the 1910s, imperialism and the militarisation of the Emperor state and society blocked this form of development. Japanese social sciences have thus mainly followed the model of Western social sciences. The issue of indigenisation gained attention after World War II and especially after the late 1960s, which was a time of reflection on the extreme influence of American sociology. In this context, this paper investigates the development of Kazuko Tsurumi's sociology, which is one of the best examples of work that deals with the issue of indigenisation. Tsurumi analyses social change from pre-World War II to post-World War II Japan by drawing on sociological functionalism. However, Tsurumi suggests that Kunio Yanagita's theory of folklore and ethnology provides a stronger explanatory framework than functionalism, and contends that Kumagusu Minaka has developed an approach rooted in East Asia. Tsurumi advances this indigenous development theory based on the work of Yanagita and Minakata, and at the same time internationalises this theory. This paper concludes that Tsurumi's theory is an important medium between Western sociology and Eastern sociology.

**Denise Tse-Shang Tang** (2021) 'The Production of Contemporary Sociological Knowledge in Hong Kong' *Journal of Historical Sociology* 34(1) <https://doi.org/10.1111/johs.12310>

*Abstract*

This paper explores the development of academic sociology in Hong Kong since the expansion of higher education and increased student enrolment in the nineties. Colleges gained university titles and sociology departments matured as a result. I attempt to trace the current state of sociology in teaching programs and research directions. I conclude with a discussion of future developments with specific reference to the repositioning of Hong Kong within sociology as the former British colony continue to negotiate, navigate and grapple its relationship with Mainland China both as a productive site for sociological research and a reference point to be different in method.

**Michel Fournier:** a translation of this book on Émile Durkheim into Arabic



**Raf Vanderstraeten** (2020) "'Sociologie Religieuse" in Belgien: Ein Glaubensbekenntnis zur Soziologie?' in V. Krech and H. Tyrell (eds) *Religionssoziologie um 1900*. Eine Fortsetzung (pp. 771-792). Würzburg: Ergon Verlag.

#### Abstract

This chapter examines the early institutionalisation of sociology and the Catholic interest in religious sociology in Belgium. It displays how different intellectual and social contexts bred their own research interests and research approaches. It shows, more particularly, how ideological affiliations and divisions defined the setting within which this new discipline had to develop in Belgium in the decades around 1900. As a consequence of the ideological controversies, sociology had difficulty gaining legitimacy as a theory-driven analysis of society. Most scholars in Belgium could not avoid taking an explicitly normative position on society. This paper also displays how secularisation and the reinforcement of the international level and its infrastructure gradually allowed for more academic autonomy for sociology in Belgium and the transition of a religious sociology to a sociology of religion.

Koch, T., **Vanderstraeten, Raf** and Ayala, R. (2021) 'Making Science International. Chilean journals and communities in the world of science' *Social Studies of Science* 51(1): 121-138.

#### Abstract

Drawing on the evolution of socio-geographical imaginaries of scholarly journals published in Chile, this article provides a picture of the socio-historical trajectories of internationalisation of scholarly journals and communities in that part of the (semi-)periphery of science. In order to break with the presentism of many contemporary discussions, the analysis covers a relatively long period of time, from the end of the nineteenth century until the first decades of the twenty-first century. However, based on an inductive analysis of the journals, the article particularly focuses on the rise of nationalist and regionalist orientations in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the intensification of the pressures for internationalisation in more recent decades. Building on the findings, the article concludes highlighting key elements and making some general observations on the internationalisation processes in the semi-periphery of science.



**Marcia Consolim** (2021) 'Circulation des Intellectuals et Réception des Nouvelles Sciences Humaines Françaises au Brésil: 1908-1932' *Revista Tempo Social* 33(1):17-51.

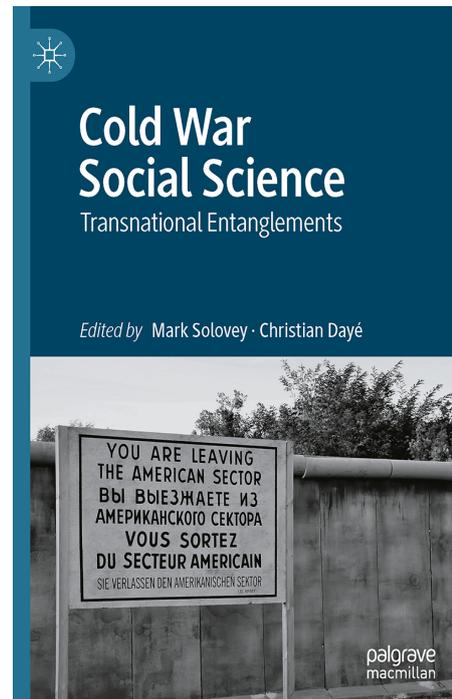
**Marcia Consolim** (2021) 'Circulation des Intellectuals et Réception des Nouvelles Sciences Humaines Françaises au Brésil: 1908-1932' *Revista Tempo Social* 33(1):53-89.  
<https://www.revistas.usp.br/ts/index>

## Mark Solovey and Christian Dayé:

*Cold War Social Science: Transnational Entanglements*, edited by Mark Solovey and Christian Dayé, forthcoming July 2021 with Palgrave Macmillan.

<https://www.palgrave.com/de/book/9783030702458>

This book explores how the social sciences became entangled with the global Cold War. While duly recognising the realities of nation states, national power, and national aspirations, the studies gathered here open up new lines of transnational investigation. Considering developments in a wide array of fields – anthropology, development studies, economics, education, political science, psychology, science studies, and sociology – that involved the movement of people, projects, funding, and ideas across diverse national contexts, this volume pushes scholars to rethink certain fundamental points about how we should understand – and thus how we should study – Cold War social science itself.



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**THE END**

