



## NEWSLETTER May 2020

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### **Letter From the President of RC08**

Dear colleagues and Friends,

What can I write? The same thing I wrote in my last letter? The Covid-19 is a very sad pandemic, etc. The situation in the world is no better, if not even worse, than few months ago. In Canada the situation is better if you compare it to other countries: USA, France. But we can't see when we will win the battle against this 'monster'. Yes we always need regulation, but perhaps not too much. Every society needs, as we know, integration mechanisms.

In our universities, everything is on line, for the best and... for the worst. It isn't so easy to teach and do research without social interactions with our students, research assistants and colleagues.

In our International Association, in our RC08, we are faced with the same problem: we can't physically meet with our colleagues and friends and we want to maintain a kind of intellectual and social life. I think it has been a good idea to transform our next RC interim conference into a virtual event. I agree it will not be so easy to organise: fees, time zones, etc. But I hope we will mobilise many of our RC colleagues.

In this too long period of uncertainty, hopefully, we can read, write and publish. I myself I have tried to be active, doing the last proof reading of my next book on the history of the *Foundation de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme - Paris*, founded in 1963 by Fernand Braudel, and writing a really critical book review (which will be published in the



*Archives de sciences sociales des religions*) of a new book on Durkheim: Wiktor Stoczkowski, *La sciences sociale comme vision du monde* (Paris, Gallimard 2019), which is the object of a debate in France because the author knocks the French founder of sociology 'off his pedestal'.



See you soon on Zoom!

Take care. All the Best  
Amicalement,

Marcel Fournier  
RC08 President.

### Letter from the Editor

Dear colleagues and friends,

this is a time in our lives we will all remember - with sadness, amazement perhaps, and, as sociologists, as a time of learning about our societies and their political systems. Some societies have pulled together and managed the covid virus well, while others have simply demonstrated their weaknesses and political incapacities. Individualism seems to have been the most prevalent characteristic of the American debacle. Where I live, in Australia, there has been an amazing effort to control the virus, and we have not had any locally acquired infections now for two weeks in Victoria and New South Wales - though a new outbreak has occurred in South Australia. The borders are shut firmly against travel into the country, and even state borders have been closed, making it difficult to see family or colleagues. It looks like the internal borders are about to open, but international travel is still not allowed. Difficult for Australians, as we are constant travellers. But this is the price paid for our health and safety. As a sociologist I am fascinated by the numbers of people, here and elsewhere, who will not accept these restrictions, and are protesting in the streets against government lockdowns and regulations. But then, I think that is why I became a sociologist - because people fascinate me!

I asked members if they would like to write a little about how covid is being experienced in their academic lives, and a couple have taken up the offer. I add these comments below. For myself and my colleagues in the universities, our situation has been more difficult in the eastern states of Australia, where the virus has been more prevalent. In these states, many of my colleagues are teaching and researching on zoom, but some of the classes are now beginning to be taught both on zoom and face to face, so it is double workloads for many. Research programs have been rapidly re-designed to omit ethnographies, observational studies and face-to-face interviews, and many new support programs devised to assist people with the isolation and depression. Strangely, some colleagues are enjoying working from home and not missing the interaction with colleagues. This makes me think that the world will never quite be the same. Will we lose our capacity to work and plan in teams? How damaging is this going to be for collective life?

Fran Collyer  
Secretary of RC08 and Editor of the Newsletter.



### Members' Reflections on these Covid days

This year, which promised so much hope at the very beginning, turned out to bring a completely unexpected experience. The second half of the spring semester was spent in strict isolation and online classes. The start of the fall semester in the previous mode was not so surprising. Amazingly, it turned out that the technical side of remote work is not the biggest difficulty. There is no doubt that during these six months we even managed to save on shoes by staying at home. Isolation from students and colleagues was more unpleasant; it becomes clear that real communication is better than virtual. Unfortunately, not everyone was able to adapt to the new situation, some left their jobs or were dismissed, and some (especially in the older age groups) have passed away. Unfortunately, it has been too late to find out about their leaving or passing due to the isolation. But the load has increased, especially bureaucratic reporting, which creates a desire to end the remote mode as soon as possible. However, many of the new habits of online classes we might very much like to keep: for instance, the quality of control over our time has improved, and the recording of students' work results has become clearer. Academic work has become more individualised, but the family has taken up more space and time than before. Despite the difficulties and surprises, 2020 can be considered a success.

Mikhail Sinyutin  
Professor at Saint-Petersburg State University, Russia

In Kochi, Kerala, at the South-western tip of India, the college has been going on - online - since a country-wide lockdown was announced in March. Restrictions have been eased but teaching-learning, extension and whatever possible extracurricular activities have migrated to online platforms. We have recently conducted admissions to UG programs over the phone/ Gmail/ Whatsapp, inducted first year students to college life via Webex, and are organising Fresher's parties and open house for parents, not to mention live classes via Google Meet. Sessional exams have been completed over Moodle.

The major concern in all this is a small percentage of students who have been missing out on their studies due to the lack of devices or the resources to top up their data plans regularly. We also have students from remote areas who face connectivity issues. The College has raised some funds through donations and handed over laptops to a few needy students, but some are still struggling.

At one level, it seems that work has become more systematic and concise, for we are left free of the need to 'manage' students and coordinate various activities at a face-to-face level. The intermediation of technology has made the workflow smoother, and most of the work of teaching-learning is progressing well enough from a teacher's point of view. Not all colleagues are comfortable with the transition, however. Many faculty and students earnestly miss the warmth and depth of personal relations.

Linda Luiz,  
Assistant Professor, Sociology, St. Teresa's College, Kerala, India.



## Member's Notices



### Invitation for papers: *The American Sociologist*

The *American Sociologist* is seeking papers on the history of the field of sociology. These may examine major figures, schools of thought and intellectual debates, as well as the development of the discipline in diverse national contexts, including its history at particular institutions.

Papers may also consider the emergence and fluctuations of specialised subfields, as well as the status of particular groups in the field (e.g., by ethnicity and gender), or the history of particular methodologies, along with applied and public sociology.

Submissions may be sent at any time.

Those desiring further information may contact the editor, Dr. Lawrence T. Nichols at <lnichols@retiree.wvu.edu>. Additional information about *The American Sociologist*, including guidelines for submissions, may be found at the website maintained by Springer, the publisher of the journal.

<https://www.springer.com/journal/12108>

### New Website

Dear colleagues,

With great pleasure I present you the website of the Research Center on the Circulation of Knowledge (CECIC for its Spanish acronym), created in 2019 at the Facultad de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales of the National University of Cuyo (Mendoza, Argentina).

<https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/hb05CQnMBZfZkZ0pSxUB70?domain=cecic.fcp.uncuyo.edu.ar>

Soon in English!

Best wishes,

Fernanda Beigel  
Investigadora Principal del CONICET  
Profesora Titular Sociología Latinoamericana  
Centro de Estudios de la Circulación del Conocimiento-CECIC  
Universidad Nacional de Cuyo-INCIHUSA, CCT-Mendoza, Argentina.



## **2020 HOS Lifetime Achievement Award, Marcel Fournier of Université de Montreal**

It is one of the rare privileges of academic life to have the opportunity to honour the scholarly achievements of our professional colleagues, and no honour is more meaningful than recognition for lifetime achievement. Few scholars ever receive such awards, and it is our pleasure to extend that recognition, in 2020, to Marcel Fournier of the Université de Montreal.

Professor Fournier is widely recognised for many scholarly achievements, but above all for his path breaking and continuing work on Durkheimian sociology and sociologists. The best known fruits of that endeavour are his encyclopaedic biographies of Marcel Mauss and Émile Durkheim. In the words of Professor Stephen Lukes, one of his most eminent predecessors, Professor Fournier 'is rightly regarded across the world as the major present-day authority on Durkheim, Mauss and the Durkheimians'.

'His biographies of Durkheim and Mauss and his focus on the collective work of the Année sociologique group of scholars, together with various ancillary writings constitute a monumental body of work to which all subsequent writings and research must refer'.

Professor Jeffrey Alexander of Yale University adds detail to this evaluation: 'Marcel's book on Mauss transformed that thinker into a ravishing intellectual and human being'. Levi-Strauss and Bourdieu had given his well-known work *The Gift* new salience, but Professor Fournier showed 'that Mauss was so much more than these achievements. He displayed and interpreted Mauss' writing, for example, about the situation of the working class, and he brought together and interpreted his massive published and unpublished thinking, both polemical and systematic, about socialism. Marcel demonstrated that Mauss was one of the key intellectual figures of France over four decades, spanning several disciplines...'

'If Marcel's book has forever changed how Mauss is understood, this is also the case, if slightly less so, for his amazing biography of Durkheim. [It had long been] believed that [an encompassing] biography was impossible, for the reason that Durkheim's papers had been destroyed when the Nazis controlled Bordeaux. Remarkably, Marcel was able to [recount] what Durkheim was doing every year of his life, and often during many months of each year. ... He also documents what I myself had only been able to speculate about textually, namely the dramatic shift towards religion and collective representations that occurred in Durkheim's thought in the late 1890s'.

Professor Fournier has also been active in the history and sociology of science. As Professor and former ASA President Michèle Lamont of Harvard University explains, 'The research that Marcel Fournier conducted on Quebec's entry into Modernity opened a new perspective at the crossroads of the history of scientific disciplines and the sociology of science and culture'.

'This work made it possible to better understand the process of constitution of the scientific and intellectual fields and to renew the analysis of social and cultural changes that Quebec has experienced since the end of the 19th century. Marcel Fournier has influenced a whole generation of researchers, who have continued their research, some in the history and sociology of science, others in the sociology of arts and culture'.

After reviewing extensive documentation concerning Marcel Fournier's publications and activities, the Lifetime Achievement Award committee unanimously and enthusiastically



endorses the sentiments expressed by Professors Lukes, Alexander, and Lamont. We offer him our warmest congratulations and our best wishes for his continuing scholarship.

Committee: David Smith, Chair; Gary Jaworski, Anne Kane

see: The August 2020 Timelines is now posted to the HoS Website  
<https://www.asanet.org/asa-communities/sections/sites/history-sociology/newsletters>

### **The appointment of a new Managing Director of the Archive**

The Archive for the History of Sociology in Austria (AGSO) at the University of Graz announces that it appointed Dr. Andreas Kranebitter, member of the ISA RC08, as its new managing director starting September 1st, 2020. The AGSO, founded in 1987, holds some 73 personal estates and collections of Austrian sociologists and sociological organisations, following a broad definition from both a regional and disciplinary point of view (see <http://agso.uni-graz.at/> for a detailed list of the Archive's collections). The AGSO's mission is firstly the collection of typescripts, manuscripts, and correspondence, as well as audio and video material and artifacts connected to the history of sociology in Austria, secondly the coordination of research and publication activities regarding the history of the social sciences in printed form as well as in exhibitions and on websites. We look forward to a future cooperation with all RC members and emphatically urge you to get in touch with Andreas ([andreas.kranebitter@uni-graz.at](mailto:andreas.kranebitter@uni-graz.at)).

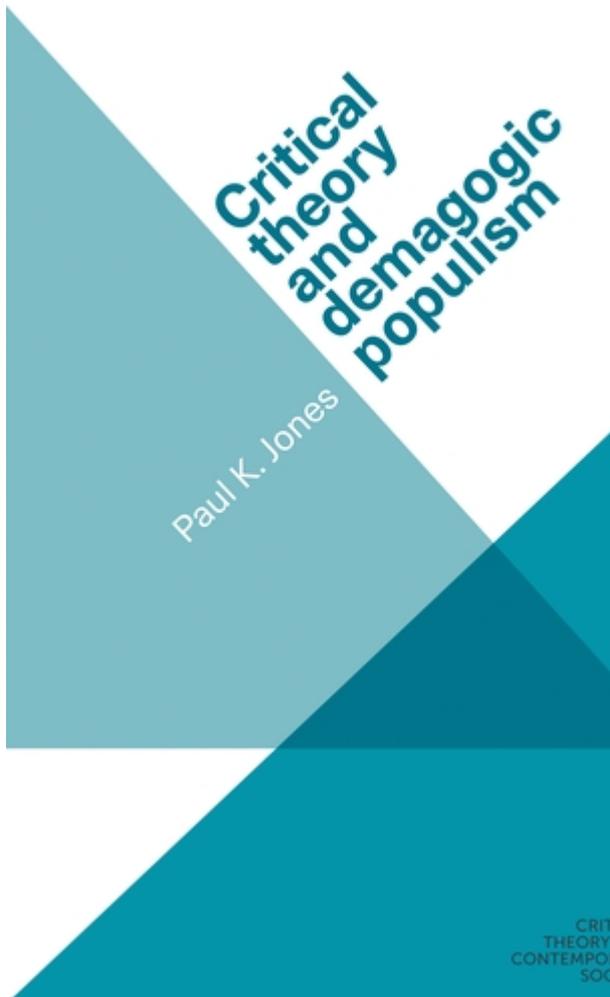
### **Member's Publications**

Louckx, K. and Vanderstraeten, R. (eds) (2020) 'Special issue on Sociology in Belgium' *The American Sociologist* 51 (2).

This special issue of *The American Sociologist* presents an overview and discussion of the history of the social sciences in Belgium in relation to international developments. It contains contributions by Andrew Abbott, Staf Hellemans, Kaat Louckx, Eric Mangez, Lawrence Nichols, Marc Poncelet, Pieter Vanden Broeck and Raf Vanderstraeten.

Koch, T., Vanderstraeten, R. and Ayala, R. (2020) 'Making science international. Chilean journals and communities in the world of science' *Social Studies of Science* 50, see <https://doi.org/10.1177/0306312720949709>.

Drawing on the evolution of socio-geographical imaginaries of scholarly journals published in Chile, this paper provides a picture of the socio-historical trajectories of internationalisation of scholarly journals and communities in this part of the (semi-)periphery of the world of science.



### ***Critical Theory and Demagogic Populism***

Reconstructs in detail, for the first time, the sociological analyses of US demagogues by members of the Frankfurt School, and compares these with contemporary approaches. Modern demagoguery emerges as a key under-researched feature of populism, since populist movements, whether 'left' or 'right', are highly susceptible to 'demagogic capture'. The book details the culture industry's populist contradictions - including its role as an incubator of modern demagogues - from the 1930s through to today's social media and 'Trumpian psychotechnics'.

It also undertakes an historical reconstruction of the Gramscian tradition of analyses of populism from Gramsci to Laclau and Mouffe.

Includes as an appendix the first republication of Adorno's draft introduction to Lowenthal's demagoguery study, *Prophets of Deceit*.

**Paul K. Jones**

The Australian National University

*Critical Theory and Demagogic Populism*  
Manchester University Press 2020.



See the latest issue of *Mittelweg* 36, which has articles from George Steinmetz at the University of Michigan:

'Concept-Quake: From the History of Science to the Historical Sociology of Social Science' (Begriffsbeben), 'Historicism and Positivism in Sociology: From Weimar Germany to the Contemporary United States' (Historismus und Positivismus), and 'Sociology and Colonialism: the relation between knowledge and politics' (Soziologie und Kolonialismus: Die Beziehung zwischen Wissen und - Politik)?

The link to the special issue is here:

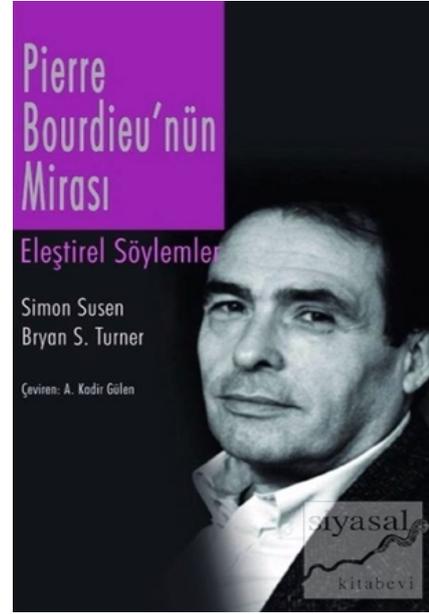
<https://www.hamburger-edition.de/zeitschrift-mittelweg-36/das-aktuelle-heft/?https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hamburger-edition.de%2Fzeitschrift-mittelweg-36%2Fdas-aktuelle-heft%2F=>

<https://www.hamburger-edition.de/zeitschrift-mittelweg-36/>



**Simon Susen** (2020) *Sociology in the Twenty-First Century: Key Trends, Debates, and Challenges*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 648 pp.

<https://www.palgrave.com/gb/book/9783030384234>



**Simon Susen** (2020) 'Intimations of Humanity and the Case for a Philosophical Sociology' *Journal of Political Power* 13(1): 123–160.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/2158379X.2019.1701822?journalCode=rpow21>

**Simon Susen** (2020) 'No Escape from the Technosystem?' *Philosophy and Social Criticism* 46(6): 734–782.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0191453719866239>

**Simon Susen** (2020) 'The Resonance of Resonance: Critical Theory as a Sociology of World-Relations?' *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society* 33(3): 309–344.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10767-019-9313-6>

**Simon Susen** (2020 [2018]) 'The Seductive Force of "Noumenal Power": A New Path (or Impasse) for Critical Theory?' in Mark Haugaard and Matthias Kettner (eds) *Theorising Noumenal Power: Rainer Forst and his Critics* London: Routledge, pp. 6–47.

<https://www.routledge.com/Theorising-Noumenal-Power-Rainer-Forst-and-his-Critics-1st-Edition/Haugaard-Kettner/p/book/9780367863128>

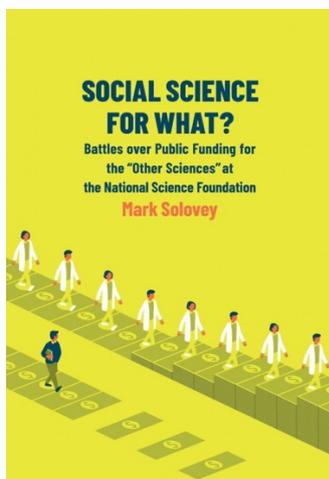


## THEORISING NOUMENAL POWER

RAINER FORST AND HIS CRITICS

Edited by  
Mark Haugaard and Matthias Kettner





**Mark Solovey**, from the University of Toronto's Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, has a new book with MIT Press:

*Social Science for What? Battles over Public Funding for the "Other Sciences" at the National Science Foundation.*

Of course it is available for purchase. Mark is delighted to report that it is also available Open Access - free! - at the press's website:

<https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/social-science-what>



Sujata Patel

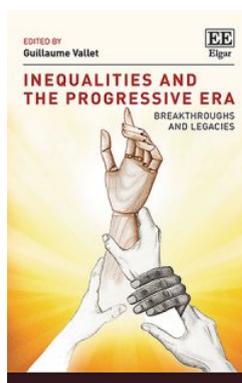
2020 'Sociology's encounter with the decolonial: The problematique of indigenous vs that of coloniality, extraversion and colonial modernity' *Current Sociology*: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011392120931143>.

2020 'Introduction. Indian Sociology's past-present and its present-futures' in S. Patel (ed) *Exploring Sociabilities of Contemporary India. New Perspectives*, Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 1-24 (ISBN: 978-93-5287-847-5).

2020 'Sociology in India. The epistemes of colonial modernity and methodological nationalism' in S. Patel (ed) *Exploring Sociabilities of Contemporary India. New Perspectives*. Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 25-50 (ISBN: 978-93-5287-847-5)

Inequalities and the Progressive Era features contributors from all corners of the world, each exploring a different type of inequality during the 'Progressive Era' (1890s-1930s). Though this era is most associated with the United States, it corresponds to a historical period in which profound changes and progress are realised or expected all over the globe.

**Cherry Schrecker** - see Chapter 5. Progressive values and institutional realities at the New School for Social Research.





Andreas Hess 'The liquefaction of memory: An intellectual history and critique of Zygmunt Bauman's diffusionist social theory' *Global Intellectual History* Published online: 31 May 2020

<https://doi.org/10.1080/23801883.2020.1765492>

For those who don't subscribe to "Global Intellectual History" and/or can't access it through their library I would be happy to send them a pdf of the text on request ([a.hess@ucd.ie](mailto:a.hess@ucd.ie))

## Reviews and Recommendations

### Michael Young, *Social Science, and the British Left, 1945-1970*

Lise Butler [Oxford Historical Monographs](#)

Provides an in depth study of the life and work of the social scientist and policy maker Michael Young. Explores the close relationship between the social sciences and left wing politics in post-war Britain. Emphasises influential communitarian and family-focused strands of British left wing politics and political thought. Written clearly, accessibly and will appeal to researchers and non-researchers.

Other Recommended Titles:

