

RC17 Sociology of Organization

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Part I: Industrial Sociology

ORIGINS

During the Third World Congress of Sociology (Amsterdam, August 1956), there was a section on “Changes in Industrial Organization” where people coming from France (4), United Kingdom (3), USA (3), FRG (2), Egypt (1), India (1), The Netherlands (1), Sweden (1), and USSR (1) delivered 17 papers.

In 1957, the ISA officially recognised the Sub-Committee on Industrial Sociology.

EXECUTIVE AND MEMBERS

At the first meeting of the group held in Paris, June 1957, Jan Szczepanski (Poland) was elected chairperson of the Sub-Committee. It had 12 members and 2 Alternates coming from: Italy (2 and 1 alternate), FRG (1 and 1 alternate), Belgium (1), Denmark (1), UK (1), Finland (1), France (1), Poland (1), Sweden (1), USA (1), and Yugoslavia (1).

In 1959, two new members joined the Committee: one from Israel, another one from Japan. At the same time, the Committee elected a new chairperson Gunnar Westerlund (Sweden).

In 1961, W.H.Scott (UK) became the Secretary of the Committee.

MEETINGS

June 27-29, 1957. First meeting of the group in the UNESCO House in Paris. Nine members of the Committee and five other scholars attended the meeting. The first two days were devoted to the conference on the theme “Different Forms and Degrees of Workers’ Participation in Management”, the third day to a discussion of plans for future work.

24 papers were presented at the meeting at the Fourth World Congress of Sociology (Milan and Stresa, September 1959). Some of these papers came from USA (7), UK (4), Belgium (3), FRG (2), Israel (2) Finland (1), France (1), Japan (1), Luxemburg (2), and USSR (1).

After the World Congress, the Committee held a 4-days meeting at Perouse (Italy), 17-20 September 1959. Ten members of the group were present.

During the Fifth World Congress of Sociology (Washington D.C., September 1962), the Committee held 2 sessions. First session was devoted to a series of four papers on a cross-national comparative research project “Office Automation and the Non-Manual Worker”. During the second sessions, 4 other papers were presented. The development

of this research made it possible to think of the constitution of a Research Committee on Work and another one on Industrial Relations. The Committee on Industrial Sociology as such ceased to exist in 1964.

PUBLICATIONS

Transactions of the Third World Congress of Sociology. Vol. II, Part One: Changes in Industrial Organization. Printed in Great Britain by the Hereford Times Ltd., General Printing Works (T.U.), London and Hereford, 1956. It contains an introductory paper by Prof. Georges Friedmann and 17 papers presented at the Congress.

Transactions of the Third World Congress of Sociology. Vol. VIII. Part I, Section II-1: Changements dans l'Organisation Industrielle. Printed in Great Britain by the Hereford Times Ltd., General Printing Works (T.U.), London and Hereford, 1957. Contains a report on the discussion.

Transactions of the Fourth World Congress of Sociology. Vol. II. Printed in Great Britain by Hanbury, Tomsett & Co. Ltd., London 1959. It contains a paper by Rene Clémens on "La Connaissance Sociologique et son Application a la Vie Industrielle."

Transactions of the Fourth World Congress of Sociology. Vol. III. Printed in Great Britain by Hanbury, Tomsett & Co. Ltd., London 1961. It contains 24 abstracts and a report on the discussion.

Archives de Sociologie de la Coopération, 1959. Papers presented at the first meeting of the Committee (Paris, June 1957) were published in this review.

Transactions of the Fifth World Congress of Sociology. Vol. IV. Printed in Belgium by Imprimerie Nauwelaerts, Louvain, 1964. It contains three papers and a report on the discussion.

Jena-René Treanton and Jean-Daniel Reynaud: *La Sociologie Industrielle*, 1951-62. *Current Sociology*, Vol. XII, N°2 (1963-64).

Part II: Sociology of Work and Organization

ORIGINS

The Research Committee on Sociology of Work and Organization emerged in 1966 from the division of Research Committee on Industrial Sociology.

EXECUTIVE AND MEMBERS

President:	W.H. Scott (UK/Australia)
Vice-President:	A. Svorikin (USSR)
Secretary:	M. Hirschowitz (Poland)

MEETINGS

At the Sixth World Congress of Sociology (Evian, September 1966) the Committee had a program of 3 sessions where 24 papers were delivered. Papers were written by scholars from: Poland (5), USA (5), UK (3), Netherlands (1), and Yugoslavia (1).

Four years later, in Varna (September 1970), the official Congress program stated that the Committee had the following sessions with a total number of 13 papers (including 3 individual contributions):

S.1: The Sociology of Organizations (2 papers)

S.2: Employee Motivation and Participation (4 papers)

S.3: Technical and Social Change (4 papers, including 3 individual contributions)

These papers came from USA (5), Bulgaria (1), Czechoslovakia (1), FRG (1), Israel (1), Japan (1), Poland (1), Venezuela (1) and Yugoslavia (1).

In April 1971, the Executive Committee decided to discontinue the Committee. At the same time, 12 new Research Committees were accepted, among them RC on Sociology of Organization and RC on Sociology of Work.

PUBLICATIONS

Renate Mayntz: The Study of Organizations. *Current Sociology*, Vol. XIII, N°3 (1964)

Transactions of the Sixth World Congress of Sociology. Vol. IV. Printed in Belgium by Imprimerie Nauwelaerts, Louvain, 1970. Contains two papers delivered to Evian.

Transactions of the Seventh World Congress of Sociology. Vol. IV. Printed by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Publishing House, Sofia, 1973. Contains two papers presented in Varna.

Part III: Sociology of Organization

FOUNDATION

In April 1971, the Executive Committee of the ISA constituted this Research Committee for a trial period of two years.

EXECUTIVE AND MEMBERS

First provisional Board consisted of:

Chair: Michel Crozier (France)

Members: N. Lapin (USSR)
Kazimierz Doktor (Poland)
Roumen Yanakiev (Bulgaria)
Renate Mayntz (GDR)
William M. Evan (USA)
Kunyo Odaka (Japan)
Cornelis Lammers (The Netherlands)

At a plenary session of the Board in Berlin, September 1972, it was decided to conduct regular election by mail ballot. The newly elected board was.

President: Michel Crozier (France) Delegate to the RC
Members: Kazimierz Doktor (Poland)
David J. Hickson (UK) Alternate to the RC
N. Lapin (USSR)
Hiroshi Manuari (Japan)
B.F. Mannheim (Israel)
J.G. March (USA)
Kunyo Odaka (Japan)
A.L. Stichcombe (USA)

Two other members of the Board were co-opted later:
Michael Aiken (USA)
William M. Evan (USA)

A list of 250 members stating their research interest was circulated in 1973.

In November 1973, during a meeting at the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, members of the RC came to the decision to establish an informal association to be called European Group of Organizational Studies, EGOS. Its secretariat was entrusted to the Fondation de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme. A provisional Co-ordinating Committee was composed of France Ferraresi (Italy), David Hickson (Great Britain), Jean-Claude Thoenig (France/Switzerland), and Erhard Friedberg (France).

In June 1977, the Committee reported membership of 300 people. Then the Research Committee held an election of the Board members. A large mailing was made to more than 300 persons but very few voted (60). The new Board was:

President: Michel Crozier (France)
Secretary: Marth Zuber (France)
Members: Michael Aiken (USA)
Fleming Agersnap (Denmark)
Kazimierz Doktor (Poland)
William M. Evan (USA)
N. Lapin (USSR)
Hiroshi Manuari (Japan)
Ari Shirom (Israel)

The Secretary was not elected but appointed.

Since 1974, Toronto World Congress, the Committee decided to work rather as a coordinating committee between regional organizations than as a worldwide centre of activities.

MEETINGS

The First meeting of the Committee took place during the Eighth World Congress (Toronto 1974) where it held the following sessions:

1. The Application and Relevance of Organizational Theory (5 panellists)
2. Cross-National Research on Organizations (4 papers)
3. The Organization and Its Environment – Interorganizational Relationship (16 papers, 9 discussants)
4. 4. Symposium on Organizational Decision-making and Organizational Power (5 papers, 2 discussants)
5. 5. Longitudinal Research on Organizations (7 papers)

There were 32 papers presented from the following countries: USA (16), UK (4), Canada (2), Yugoslavia (2), France (1), India (1), Israel (1), The Netherlands (1), Poland (1), Tanzania (1), Sweden (1) and Poland (1).

A three-day colloquium of EGOS in Bréau-sans-Napper; 3-5 April 1975. There took place meetings of working groups on current research, and four plenary sessions on:

- Power and Organization
- The State of Art in Europe
- Public Organizations and Planned Social Change
- Organizational Effectiveness and Member Participation

In Uppsala, during the Ninth World Congress of Sociology, August 1978, the Committee had 6 sessions, including business meeting.

1. Power and Formal Organisations
2. Organizations as Agents of Social Change (9 papers)
3. Inter-Organizational Network and System Analyses (8 papers)
4. Business Meeting
5. Cross-Cultural Research in Organization (7 papers)
6. New Systems of Work and Participation.

The number of papers delivered at sessions 1 and 6 is unknown. At other sessions, there were planned 24 papers by sociologists from 12 countries: (USA (11), UK (2), Poland (2) Belgium (1), Canada (1), Frances (1), West Germany (1), Israel (1), The Netherlands (1), Turkey (1), Yugoslavia (1), and Japan (1).

The Fourth EGOS Colloquium in Noordwijk Aan Zee (The Netherlands) from 27 to 30 June 1979. Its subject was “The State of Comparative Studies on Organizations in Europe”. The theme was subdivided into 4 categories which were subsequently discussed in 4 groups:

- Culture and Organizations
- Organizations in their Institutional Settings: Interinstitutional Comparisons
- Organizations over Time
- Methodological Problems of Comparative Research

The Round-Table discussion at Arc et Senans, December 6-7, 1979. French participants at the EGOS colloquium held a two-day meeting to discuss their papers. 13 persons attended the meeting and read papers.

The fifth EGOS Colloquium was scheduled for March 1981 at the Strathclyde Business School, Glasgow, Scotland, and UK. The main theme was “organizational Innovations in the 1980’s”. Four subthemes were retained:

- How do organizations cope with the economic and social realities of post-growth societies?
- Inter-organizational networks as a response to new issues
- Organizational responses to new technologies
- The impact of organizational interpretations on change

Members of the RC participated also in the following meetings:

Conference on “Markets and Hierarchies” convened by the Department of Social and Economic Studies, Imperial College, London, on December 19-21, 1979. The Conference gave major emphasis to the “organizational failures” framework developed by Williamson, and earlier complementary work by Albert Hirschman (1970): Exit, Voice and Loyalty.

Conference on Assessing Organization Design and Performance was held in Philadelphia, April 11-12, 1980. It was sponsored by the Centre for the Study of Organizational Innovation at the University of Pennsylvania. Major emphasis was put on new methodological strategies for pursuing further organizational research.

A small conference on Interorganizational Analyses took place on June 15-21, 1980 at Arresøhoj, North of Copenhagen. The Institute of Marketing and the Institute of Organization and Industrial Sociology, Copenhagen School of Economics and Business Administration, held a conference on interorganizational analyses of primary importance for Scandinavian researchers.

The large meeting was scheduled for autumn 1981 in Paris, sponsored by Centre de Sociologie des Organisations and CNRS. Emphasis was put on the problems of contributions and applications of Organizational Sociology. Participants included not only sociologists but also union members, businesspersons and others utilizing the tools of organizational sociology.

PUBLICATIONS

The Board announced in 1980 that a new periodical was launched *Organization Studies*; no more information is available.

Lucien Karpik (ed): “Organization and Environment. Theory, Issues and Reality”. *Sage Studies in International Sociology* vol. 12. Printed in Great Britain, 1978. Contains nine papers presented at session 3 during the Eight World Congress, 1974.

David Gillespie, Denis S. Mileti: “An Interpretative Approach to the Study of Organizational Technology, Structure and Behaviour” in Margaret Archer (ed.): *Current Sociology*, vol. XXII nos. 1/3, 1974. The Trinity Press, Worcester and London, 1977.

Michel Crozier: “Recent Trends and Possible Future Trends for Sociology of Organization” in Margaret Archer (ed.), *Current Research in Sociology*. Published on the occasion of the Eight World Congress of Sociology, 1974.