

**R C H S**  
Research Committee on the History of Sociology  
International Sociological Association (ISA)

NEWSLETTER  
September 1992

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IS THERE A RED CROSS ON THE ADDRESS LABEL OF THE ENVELOPE IN WHICH THIS CAME ? If so , please turn now to the bottom of page 7 to see what it means .

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## FROM THE SECRETARY

As the minutes of our Business Meeting below show, I have now taken over from Dirk Käsler as Secretary . I am honoured to succeed him, and will do my best to maintain the standards he has set . We must all be most grateful to him for all the work he has done for RCHS over the years of his Secretaryship , and I am especially grateful to him also for the help he has given me in handing over our affairs and which , as the information below about subscriptions shows , he will continue to give even from his well-earned retirement .

I should like to ask for your help too . RCHS is as good as all its members make it . What would you like it to do ? In particular , what would you most like to read in this Newsletter ? At the end you will find a short questionnaire , in which I make some suggestions and invite you to make more ; I hope that as many members as possible will take the time to return this to me so that I can try to do what you want . I hope , too , that many members will also themselves send items for the Newsletter .

Jennifer Platt .

## RCHS BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of the Business Meeting held on April 10, 1992, in the Academy of Sciences, Budapest .

Present : 17 members .

The chair was taken by Dirk Käsler ; Martin Albrow was appointed to take minutes .

Report : Prof. Käsler reported that there were now 202 members of the Committee , drawn from 29 countries , and expressed his satisfaction with its growth since 1971 , recorded in the Newsletter X11 of Spring 1992 .

The results of the elections , as reported in the Newsletter , were received , and the chairperson drew attention to the fact that no nominations for the position of Secretary had been received , although he had announced his intention to step down from this office after 9 years . He reported that Jennifer Platt , the other Vice-President , was willing to assume the duties of Secretary , and she was appointed by acclamation and without dissent .

The chair reported that the next meeting of the Committee would take place at the World Congress in Bielefeld in 1994 , and asked for ideas for themes . The following suggestions were made :

- History of sociology in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union (Jennifer Platt)
- Traditions of social thought in Eastern Europe before the period of Soviet domination .(Eva Karadi )
- History of sociology and public audiences (Dirk Käsler and Hans-Peter Müller)
- Knowledge and politics or politics of knowledge, as a joint session with RC23 (Dick Pels)
- Joint sessions with other RCs to explore histories of special fields (Jennifer Platt)
- Social research and politics and/or the interplay of theory and social research (Ricca Edmondson and Irmela Gorges)
- Early emergences of sociological discourses (Björn Eriksson and Sven Eliassen)

The meeting concluded with votes of thanks to Dirk Käsler for his outstanding contribution to the Committee over the years , and to Eva Karadi for her expert local organisation of the 1992 conference .

## WORLD CONGRESS 1994

The XIIIth World Congress of Sociology will be held in Bielefeld , Germany , from July 18 - 23 , 1994 .Each Research Committee will be given 18 session slots (to include joint sessions and business meetings) of 2 hours each . These will be from 14.00 - 16.00 , 16.30 - 18.30 , and 19.00 - 21.00 , on each day .I expect that we shall not want to use so many slots , but we shall see!

This is the time schedule for the preparation of the programme from the point of view of the central ISA :

January 31 , 1993 - session topics and names of session organisers to reach ISA secretariat .

October 1 , 1993 - full information on each session , including names of speakers and titles of papers , to reach ISA secretariat .

February 1 , 1994 - deadline for abstracts of papers to reach ISA .

We shall , of course , need to make our preparations fit in with this timetable . In order to do that , we must start now to establish the final list of session topics and organisers . Given above , in the minutes of the business meeting , is an initial list of suggested topics, but those who suggested them did not necessarily want to organise them - and even if they did , there might be other members not at that meeting who would also like to be involved . All members are , therefore , invited to **let the Secretary know if they would like to organise a session on one of those topics .**

Following up the decision made at the meeting to explore the possibility of joint sessions with other RCs , the Secretary wrote to a number of them and has received interested replies from those listed below . In some cases there is already a potential co-organiser from the other RC , whose name is given . **If you would be interested in organising , or co-organising , one of these sessions , please let both me and the person named below know as soon as possible :**

RC 32, Women and Society--Secretary , Prof. Marcia Texler Segal, Indiana University Southeast , 4201 Grant Line Road , New Albany , Indiana 47150 , USA . (tel. 812 941- 2210;fax (812) 941-2475 ; internet : msegal@iusmail . ius . indiana . edu ; Bitnet : MSEGAL@ IUBACS.

RC 22, Sociology of Religion --potential co-organiser : Prof. Jose A. Prades , GRAIGE-UQAM , Université du Québec a Montréal , Case postale 8888 , succursale A, Montréal , Québec , H3C 3P8 , Canada . (tel. 514 987-4427 ; fax, 514 987- 4718 ).

RC 30, Sociology of Work -- liaison person : Yvette Lucas , ERMOPRES , Université Toulouse le Mirail , 5 allées Antonio-Machado , 31058 TOULOUSE CEDEX, France . (tel. 61.50.45.05; telecopie 61.50.49.63).

RC 4 , Sociology of Education -- potential co-organiser , Dr Jan C.C. Rupp, Netherlands Graduate School for Social Science, University of Amsterdam , Oude Hoogstraat 24, 1012 CE Amsterdam, The Netherlands .(tel. 31-20-5252262 ).

RC 23, Sociology of Science and Technology --Secretary , Dr Radhika Ramasubban , 14 Bandstand Apts. , B.J. Road , Bandra (W), Bombay - 400 050, India. (tel. 642 9281 ; fax, 91-22-646 2084/642 1989.)

RC 37, Sociology of the Arts --potential co-organiser , Prof. Muriel G. Cantor, American University , Washington , DC 20016, USA . (tel. 202 885-2485 ; fax, 202 885-2477 ; Bitnet MCANTOR@AUVM ).

RC 14, Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture -- potential co-organiser , Prof. Dr. Miguel de Aguilera Moyano , Instituto...Antonio Machado , Hotel Laredo , Universidad de Alcala de Henares , Paseo de la Estacion , 10-28807 ALCALA DE HENARES (MADRID) , Spain .

Finally , members will probably want to suggest some further topics not already mentioned , and they are warmly invited to do so - but at this stage it is hoped that in doing so they will also be volunteering to organise such a session . **New suggestions too should be sent to the Secretary as soon as possible .**

From RCHS's point of view , the timetable means that all these suggestions will need to reach me **by December 15th 1992** at the latest so that I can then sort out the possibilities and inform the ISA . I then plan to send out another Newsletter in the spring so that all members will know the plans are , and can respond to the calls for papers from session organisers .

## NEWS AND NOTES

Michaël Pollak

It is with deep regret that the premature death of our colleague Michaël Pollak is reported . It is hoped to include an obituary notice in a future issue .

## Publications by members

Martin Albrow - "Sine ira et odio -- or do organisations have feelings ?" Organisation Studies , 3, 1992 .

Martin Bulmer et al., The Social Survey in Historical Perspective 1880-1940, 1991 , Cambridge University Press .(Containing papers by several RCHS members.)

- " The growth of applied sociology after 1945 : the prewar establishment of the postwar infrastructure " in ed. T. C. Halliday and M. Janowitz , Sociology and its Publics , University of Chicago Press .

Lewis Coser - Maurice Halbwachs on Collective Memory (ed., translated and with an introduction by LC ), University of Chicago Press .

Sven Eliaeson - "Between ratio and charisma: Max Weber's view on plebiscitary leadership democracy" , Statsvetenskaplig Tidskrift 4, 1991 .

Björn Eriksson- "Basic processes of scientific disciplinisation " (Research Report , Work in Progress ) .

David Kettler and Peter Warrian - Canadian and American labor movements and reflexive labor law " in ed. R. Rogowski and T. Wilthagen, Reflexive Labor Law ,1992, Kluwer .

Volker Meja and Nico Stehr (eds.) - Knowledge and Politics:the Sociology of Knowledge Dispute , 1991, Routledge .

Dick Pels - "Treason of the intellectuals: Paul de Man and Hendrik de Man" , Theory Culture and Society 1991.

- "Elias and the politics of theory " , Theory Culture and Society 1991 .

- "Elster's Tocqueville: some critical remarks " , Rationality and Society 1991 .

Jennifer Platt - " 'Case study' in American methodological thought ", Current Sociology 40, 1992.

- "The SSRC restudy of Angell's cases from The Family Encounters the Depression ", J.Hist. Behav. Scis. 1992 .

- (with Paul Hoch) "Migration and the denationalization of science ", in ed. E. Crawford et al. Denationalizing Science , 1992 .

Gina Zabłudovsky - "Poder y dominacion en la sociologia del Oriente de Max Weber", (in press) F.C.E.- UNAM.

### Have You Read Any Good Books Lately?

This could be a rubric under which we recommend interesting reading to each other - which might be especially helpful to those in other countries or using other languages from those of publication . J.P. recommends :

Kurt Danziger's Constructing the Subject .(Cambridge University Press, 1990). This is a history of key aspects of methodological practice in psychology, bringing out the theoretical assumptions implicit in them and showing how they were related to the wider social context . It takes a critical and analytical approach which is highly suggestive for work in other fields , even if one is not interested in psychology .

Philip Mirowski's More Heat Than Light .(Cambridge University Press , 1989). This is a fascinating study of the history of economics , about ways in which physics has influenced it - and , more strikingly , vice versa .

### Other Societies

Another way in which we might spread news of shared interest is to mention in this newsletter other societies, and journals, which deal with subjects related to the history of sociology .

Those of us who see our concerns as linked with those of historians of natural science know that 'history of science ' is often defined in ways which exclude us, which can be very frustrating . It is good to know (as I recently learned - perhaps you knew this already ) that the US History of Science Society has affiliated with it the Forum for History of Human Science (FHHS) , an interest group which aims to ensure the adequate representation of the human sciences at HSS meetings and to foster communication and debate among historians of the human sciences . (Join by sending \$10 to Richard von Mayrhauser , Dept. of History , Slippery Rock University , Slippery Rock , PA 16057 , USA.) Do you know of any other such societies , not connected with the general sociological associations ? If so , why not send in the details to appear in our next newsletter ?

News of journals , too , could be valuable . Do other members share your Secretary's experience that some mainstream sociological journals will not accept papers on historical subjects ? Would members like to see the results of asking editors to give us a statement on their policies in relation to historical work ? (If so , would they volunteer to help provide material by writing to editors in their own countries ? Any that is offered will be welcomed .)

What Would You Like To See In This Newsletter ?

Some suggestions for possible future Newsletter items are made above , but perhaps you have more and better ones . Your Secretary agrees that she has written too much of this issue , and hopes that the next issue may have contributions from many different members . Even if you do not have an item to offer , however , you can help to improve it by using the little questionnaire below to express your interests . **Please take 5 minutes to do this and send it to Jennifer Platt ! Thank you .**

**I would like to see in the RCHS newsletter :**

- details of new publications by members .....
- content lists of relevant journals .....
- details of the editorial policies of relevant journals .....
- information about other learned societies .....
- news of meetings organised by other societies .....
- news of members (job changes , deaths ...)
- details of members' work in progress .....
- short notices of interesting books .....
- articles on work in progress on the history of sociology in particular countries , or at particular institutions .....
- descriptions of useful archives or other sources .....
- requests for information on research topics .....
- something else (please write your suggestions ) .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

WHY NOT SEND IN AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOU HAVE SUGGESTED IN THE SAME ENVELOPE , AND SAVE A STAMP?

**RCHS Membership Records and British Law.**

There are very rigorous British laws on " data protection" when any information about individuals is stored on computer , as RCHS membership records are . The law requires that such information should only be kept if members do not object . It is therefore necessary for me to ask all members to let me know if they have any objection to this . If I do not hear from you I shall assume that you have no objection . In future , a reference to this will appear on the form for renewal of membership . What do we have about you on the computer ? As you may well imagine , it is very boring : your name , address and subscription details .

**Paying Your Subscription**

Another minor change is made necessary by the move of the Secretaryship to England - or rather an unexpected lack of change . The new Secretary has set up a British bank account for RCHS . Unfortunately , however , there is no account available which does not make very high charges for each payment received from abroad . This means that if most subscriptions were paid direct to this account the RCHS would face rapid financial ruin . Dirk Käsler has

very kindly agreed to save the situation by continuing to hold the RCHS account in his care , to receive subscriptions . He will then pay a lump sum into the British account once or twice a year . Please , therefore , follow the instructions below carefully when you pay your subscription ! Thank you .

### Is Your Subscription Due ?

Yes ,it is, IF THERE IS A RED CROSS ON YOUR ADDRESS LABEL OR HERE ; please check this now .

To pay the subscription ,only members with a British bank account should send a cheque from it , payable to "RCHS Platt" , to Jennifer Platt . All other members should send their subscriptions to Dirk Käsler at Universität Hamburg , Institut für Soziologie, Allende-Platz 1 , D 2000 Hamburg 13 , Germany , or in continental Europe use the Postal Giro Service to minimize bank charges : Postgiroamt München (BLZ 700 100 80 ) , Account 822 22-809 Käsler RCHS .

An updated list of RCHS members will appear in the next issue of this newsletter.