

RCHS

Research Committee on the History of Sociology
International Sociological Association (ISA)

NEWSLETTER

March 1993

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FROM THE SECRETARY

Many thanks to all the colleagues who have sent me items to include in this newsletter; please keep sending more. As you can see from the summary below of the answers to the questionnaire in our last issue, many other people will be interested in what you can send.

Letters from RCHS members are always welcome, but if you write after March I am afraid that I shall not be able to deal with your letter until July, as I shall be on a research trip to libraries in the USA from April until the end of June. I expect to produce the next newsletter in the early autumn.

In the last newsletter, I asked for members to renew subscriptions if they were due, but foolishly I forgot that many people would not have kept the information about how much the subscription now is. One learns from ones mistakes, and this time it *is* given, on page.. **There is a complete membership list at the back of this newsletter, with a \$ by your name if your money is due;** if this applies to you, please take action quickly before you forget! (If you have sent it to Dirk Käsler very recently, it may not yet be on this list.) It is, of course, expected that participants in World Congress sessions should have up-to-date membership. If I have not received subscriptions due by the end of the summer, I shall assume (with regret) that those people do not wish to continue as members and remove their names from the list. It is not practical to send individual reminders on exact dates, but when your money arrives I calculate the period paid for from the date of your last payment, so noone will lose by being asked a little early -or gain by being asked late. It is possible that a rise in the subscription may need to be proposed at the next Business Meeting, so members who pay for 4 years now may find themselves at an advantage.

WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY, BIELEFELD 1994.

Calls for papers

Below are listed the calls for papers received from the organisers of our planned sessions at the World Congress; members interested in contributing papers are invited to get in touch with the organisers. Please note that the central ISA requires the names of authors and titles of their papers by 1 October, so that organisers will probably need to hear from you no later than the beginning of September; they may expect a full paper by then, and may wish to set earlier deadlines, so it is important to enquire as soon as possible.

With regret it must be recognised that in the past the authors of papers accepted for World Congress sessions have sometimes failed to give them, without letting session organisers know that they were not going to. Such behaviour makes the organisational task much harder, deprives other colleagues of the chance to give a paper, and disappoints an audience which came expecting additional papers. We all hope that this problem will not arise again; if plans change, it should not be hard to inform the organiser. It has been suggested to organisers that they should avoid accepting papers this time from those who acted in this way last time.

Does any colleague know of a possible source of funds to help subsidise attendance at the Congress by paper-givers from countries, such as many in Eastern Europe or the Third World, with currency problems? I have written to ask the ISA secretariat, but have no reply. Any suggestions would give valuable assistance in broadening our discussions.

History of sociology and public audiences.

This session asks: What kind of reciprocal relationship has existed between sociological analyses of contemporary societies and the self-interpretation of those societies in political,

journalistic or public discourses? What is the character of sociological diagnosis of the time? These questions will be dealt with for select national traditions. Papers are specifically invited that try to answer these questions not with reference to individual authors - e.g. 'Max Weber and public discourse in Weimar Germany' - but rather to larger areas of sociology such as whole national traditions - e.g. 'The Durkheim school and the self-interpretation of French society', or 'The Chicago school and the self-interpretation of US society'.

Organisers: Dirk Käsler and Hans-Peter Müller. Abstracts of papers offered should be sent to Prof. D. Käsler, Institut für Soziologie, Universität Hamburg, Allende-Platz 1, D-2000 Hamburg 13, Germany. (Fax 49-40-491-1515).

The nature and status of classical sociological theory

Contributions are invited which deal with a range of questions concerning the nature, the practical impact and the status of classical sociological theory for the development of sociological knowledge. The focus of the session will, therefore, be less on the exegesis of particular classical texts and more on the function of classical discourse for sociological theory and research.

Organisers: Prof. N. Stehr, University of Alberta, Dept. of Sociology, 6-11 H.M. Tory Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2H4 (to whom correspondence should go in the first instance), and Prof. E. Tiryakian, Dept. of Sociology, Duke University, Durham, NC 27706, USA.

History of empirical research and its relation to policy and to theory.

This session on the history of empirical social research offers a choice between two emphases. The first invites papers focussing on the impact of policy strategies, political theories, and social and economic conditions on the development of empirical research. Attention might also be given to the impact of research concepts or results on the development of society. The second emphasis concerns the relations between theoretical and empirical research. The two branches of enquiry are held to influence and support each other, but what evidence is there that they actually do so? Are detailed theoretical considerations genuinely used to inspire and justify empirical enquiries? How often is a detailed knowledge of empirical results used to justify theoretical developments? In both these areas, papers from all fields are welcome.

Organisers: Dr. R. Edmondson, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology, University College, Galway, Ireland, and Privatdozentin I. Gorges, Hagenstraße 31, D-W 1000 Berlin 33, Germany.

Early emergences of sociological discourses.

Papers on early social science are invited. The focus is on interpreting classics before the 'second wave of academic institutionalisation' at the turn of the last century. The emergence of secularised social science as a core tradition is the main *Schwerpunkt*, though we by no means limit our scope to the Western tradition. The comparative view of ideas in context also calls for papers on e.g. Kautilya or Ibn Khaldun. There is special interest in contributions dealing with early instrumentalism (Machiavelli), early utilitarianism (Hobbes) and early formation of disciplines (Ferguson, Ranke, Comte).

Organisers: Prof. S. Eliäson, Box 3524, S-710 60 Grythyttan, Sweden., and Prof. B. Eriksson., Sociologiska Institutionen, Uppsala Universitet, Kyrkogårdsgatan 10, Pa Box 513, S-751 20 Uppsala, Sweden.

Stalinism and sociology in Eastern Europe, 1944-1955.

This session is concerned with the impact of Stalinism on sociology in each nation, with particular emphasis on patterns of collaboration, accommodation and resistance.

Organisers: Prof. M.Keen, Dept. of Sociology, Indiana University South Bend, South Bend, Indiana 46634, USA, and Prof. J. Mucha, Dept. of Sociology, Nicolaus Copernicus University, ul. Mickiewicza 121, 87-100 Torun, Poland.

Traditions of social thought in East and Central Europe: origins and emigrations.

This session is concerned both with older traditions and with what has become of them, with distinctly national sociologies and with their interaction and mutual influence across national boundaries. It is especially interested in the roles of original and return migration in the processes of the transfer, growth and transformation of sociological ideas and knowledge
Organiser: Dr Eva Karadi, Dept. of Philosophy, University ELTE-AJK, Budapest, Egyetem ter 1-3, Hungary 1364.

The history of applied sociology.

Papers are invited on the history of applied sociology, for any period since the early nineteenth century. The application of sociology in policy and public affairs has been a hallmark of the discipline at several periods, from the poverty surveys of the late nineteenth century, through the criminological researches of the Chicago School, to studies in industrial, medical and organisational sociology, the sociology of the welfare state, etc. Sociologists in public office, both elected and appointed, have also had an effect upon the influence of the discipline.

Organiser: Prof. M. Bulmer, Dept. of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton SO9 5NH, England. (Fax +44-703-593859); please send offers.

Sociology of religion: from classic to modern approaches. (Joint, RC 22)

Papers are invited about a variety of approaches in sociology of religion, from classic (Marx, Weber, Durkheim...) to modern (Parsons, Bellah, Berger...) or very recent and alternative positions. Papers should focus in a descriptive and critical way on the paradigm of the chosen approach(es). Critical discussion of ways in which these paradigms can be applied to contemporary issues will be welcome.

Organisers: Prof. J.A.Prades, GRAIGE, Université du Québec a Montréal, CP8888, succursale A, Montréal, Québec, Canada H3C 3P8, to whom titles and summaries should be sent, and Dr R. Cipriani, Dipartimento di sociologia, Università degli studi di Roma 'La Sapienza', via Salaria 113, 00198 Roma, Italy.

Rethinking the sociological origins of the sociology of education. (Joint, RC 05)

The theoretical bases of the sociology of education, unlike some other sociological fields, are borrowed directly from grand theory, while grand theory has drawn little or nothing from the sociology of education. This was evident at the commencement of sociology, and continues to be evident in the main current traditions: functionalism, radical theory, interpretivism, rational choice theory, institutionalism, post-modernism. Does this situation result from the character of education itself, or does it result from the relative underdevelopment of the sociology of education? Papers are invited which analyse these and related issues from a theoretical and historical viewpoint.

Organisers: Prof. F. O. Ramirez, School of Education, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-2348, USA, and Dr. J.C.C.Rupp, Amsterdam School for Social Research, University of Amsterdam, Oude Hoogstraat 24, 1012 CE Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Changing technology and the division of labour: a historical approach. (Joint, RC 30)

The history of sociological research on technology and the division of labour is determined in part by the practice of production and work organisation. But this session is especially interested in the relation between sociological theory and the history of the sociology of work. How has theory influenced debate on technology and the division of labour, and how is this problem reflected in theory? Key words in opening the discussion are :Durkheim, Marx, Taylor, technological determinism, societal or cultural approaches.

Organisers: Prof. J.Kulpinska, Institute of Sociology, University of Łódź, Rewolucij 1905 r.Nr 41/43, 90-214 Łódź, Poland (fax 48 42/78 39 58), and Dr Y.Lucas, ERMOPRES, Université de Toulouse le Mirail, 5 allées Antonio-Machado, 31058 Toulouse CEDEX, France.

History of the Sociology of Art and its relation to general sociology (Joint, RC37)

Details of what is planned for this session will be available from the organisers: Prof. M.Cantor, Dept. of Sociology, American University, 4400 Massachusetts , Ave.NW Washington, DC 20016-8072, USA, and Dr G. Tasheva, Institute of Sociology, 13A Moskovska,1000 Sofia, Bulgaria.

General session

This session is for any papers submitted which cannot find a place under the rubric of one of the specific sessions listed above. Full papers should be sent to the organisers by August 30. Organisers: Prof. J. Langer, Institut für Soziologie, Universität Klagenfurt, Universitätsstrasse 65-67, A-9010 Klagenfurt, Austria, and Jennifer Platt (for address see front)

In addition to the RCHS sessions, David Schweitzer is organising a session for the RC on Alienation Theory and Research -'Alienation, reification and the advent of postmodernity'- which might be of interest to members, and suggests that any RCHS member who would like to share the organisational task contact him with a possible view to making it a joint session.It will focus on the analysis of new forms of alienation and reification associated with the emergence of postmodernity; papers are invited on related topics.

NEWS AND NOTES

Tom Bottomore

It is with the greatest regret that we report the death on 9 Dec. 1992 of Professor Tom Bottomore, a recent former President of RCHS as well as of the whole ISA. The Secretary thought that members would wish there to be a token of respect on their behalf at his funeral, and so made a contribution in our name to Oxfam (as requested by his family). Members may wish to associate themselves with this personally. It is suggested that anyone who wants to do so should send their money to the Secretary - in the same way as for subscriptions, please , via Dirk Käsler if not from a British bank . Sums up to the amount donated will be put in the RCHS account; the rest will be sent as a further donation to Oxfam in our name.

William Outhwaite offers an obituary: A major part of Tom Bottomore's research was in the history of social thought. His edition (with M. Rubel) of *Karl Marx: Selected Writings in Sociology and Social Philosophy* (1961) remains perhaps the best introduction in English to Marx's thought, and his *Elites and Society* (1964) plays a similar role for elite theory. His *Austro-Marxism* (1978, with P. Goode) is a valuable guide to this tradition - the variant of Marxist thought to which Tom was most sympathetic - as well as bringing to an English-speaking audience a wealth of previously untranslated texts. But it would in many ways be

artificial to separate out Tom's historical work from the rest of his sociological output. His *History of Sociological Analysis* (with R Nisbet) , and his work on Schumpeter, combine historical and systematic concerns. All his work was thoroughly international in focus, from his practical role in shaping the ISA to his many editing projects. His theoretical, historical and geographical range was quite exceptional in British sociology of the 1950s and 1960s, and he did a lot to open up the intellectual scene by disseminating unfamiliar ideas from Vienna, Paris and elsewhere. Whether he was interpreting a line of theoretical development or evaluating current political trends, Tom's judgments were backed by the same combination of historical awareness, careful study and reflection and a concern, as he sometimes put it, to spread around a little clarity and rationality. He certainly did that, and a lot more besides.

- Tom Bottomore's latest publication is *The Blackwell Dictionary of Twentieth-Century Social Thought* (1993, edited with W. Outhwaite.)

Martin Bulmer has moved to the University of Southampton, and been promoted to Professor.

Michael Pollak's death was reported in our last newsletter; a brief obituary can now be given, summarised from various sources and concentrating on his work in the history of sociology:

Michael Pollak was born in Vienna, and studied sociology in Linz; after his first degree he moved to Paris to the École Pratique des Hautes Études, where his doctoral thesis was supervised by Bourdieu. From 1980 he worked in the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, and in 1982 he became chargé de recherche of the Institut d'histoire du temps présent. His career base was in Paris, but guest professorships and research took him to several other countries and he played a significant role in making links between the sociologies of French- and German-speaking countries. He did valuable work in a number of fields of sociology, including science policy, the movement against nuclear power, the experience of the victims of concentration camps, and the homosexual 'Lebenswelt' and AIDS. Below are listed some of his main publications in the history of sociology:

La politique des sciences sociales, 1975, Paris, OCDE.

Gesellschaft und Soziologie in Frankreich, 1978, Kronberg/Ts, Anton Hein.

'Paul F. Lazarsfeld: a socio-intellectual biography', *Knowledge* 2 (2):157-77, 1980.

'Max Weber en France: l'itinéraire d'une œuvre', *Cahiers de l'IHTP* 3, 1986.

'Lazarsfelds Einfluss auf die internationale Verbreitung der empirischen Sozialforschung...', in ed. W. R. Langenbucher *Paul F. Lazarsfeld*, München, Ölschläger, 1990.

The European Legacy - Towards New Paradigms

This conference is being held on 22-27 August 1994 in Graz, Austria. Josef Langer invites offers of papers for the workshop that he is organising, 'European intellectual identity as seen from outside the continent.'

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS

Agnes Erdelyi *Max Weber in Amerika: Wirkungsgeschichte und Rezeptionsgeschichte Webers in der anglo-amerikanischen Philosophie und Sozialwissenschaft.* (Passagen Verlag 1992).

- Uta Gerhardt *Talcott Parsons on National Socialism* (1993)
- Carsten Klingemann et al. *Jahrbuch für Soziologiegeschichte 1991* (Leske and Budrich, 1992), containing among other articles 'Von Nichts zu Soziologie' by Kurt Wolff.
- Josef Langer ed. *Emerging Sociology: an International Perspective* (Avebury, 1992).
- David Schweitzer 'De-alienation, dis-anomie and Durkheim'. in ed. A. Oldenquist and M. Rosner, *Alienation, Community and Work* (Greenwood Press, 1991)
- David Schweitzer 'Marxist theories of alienation and reification: the response to capitalism, state socialism and the advent of post-modernity', in ed. R.F.Geyer and W.R.Heinz, *Alienation, Society and the Individual: Continuity and Change in Theory and Research. (Transaction, 1992)*
- Donatella Simon 'Origini della psicologia collettiva in Francia e Italia: problemi di sociologia giuridica e criminale', *Studi di Sociologia XXVIII*, 4, 1990.
- Donatella Simon 'La presenza del 'positivismo' nell'odierna sociologia:una rassegna del pensiero comtiano', *Sociologia I*, 1992.
- Barry Smart *Modern Conditions, Postmodern Controversies* (Routledge, 1992)
- Barry Smart *Postmodernity* (Routledge, 1993).
- (R. Gubert and) Luigi Tomasi (eds.) *The Contribution of Florian Znaniecki to Sociological Theory* (FrancoAngeli 1993).
- Stephen P. Turner and Dirk Käsler eds. *Sociology Responds to Fascism* (Routledge 1992), containing papers by a number of RCHS members.
- Elfriede Üner *Soziologie als 'geistige Bewegung': Hans Freyers System der Soziologie und die 'Leipziger Schule'*. (VCH, 1992).
- Rose-Luise Winkler *Portraits of Russian and Soviet Sociologists*, Berlin 1990.
Aus der Geschichte der Wissenschaftssoziologie, sowjetische Periode 1917-1935, Textsammlung, Tjumen 1992. (in Russian).

NEW MEMBERS AND THEIR INTERESTS

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|------------------------|---|
| Ritsuo Akimoto | Karl Mannheim |
| Reinhard Blomert | History of social sciences at Heidelberg University 1918-1958, and biographies of relevant sociologists such as Alfred Weber, Karl Mannheim, Norbert Elias. |
| Paul Close | Citizenship |
| Stefan Costea | History of sociology in Romania |
| Irina Cristea | History of sociology in Romania |
| John L. Daly | Sociology of knowledge |
| John P. Drysdale | History of German sociology/social theory, especially 1890-1933. |
| Jan Marie Fritz | History of clinical sociology, African-American history |
| Susan Hoecker-Drysdale | The sociology of Harriet Martineau; women contributors to the formation of sociology and the feminist tradition in sociology; classical social theory. |
| Mike F. Keen | Social history of science and social science. |
| Janusz L. Mucha | History of American sociology (Cooley, Mills);sociology in Eastern Europe after World War 11. |
| Nikolas Rose | Role of the human sciences in rationalities and technologies of government. |

WHAT WOULD MEMBERS LIKE TO SEE IN THIS NEWSLETTER?

This question can be answered with confidence, at least for those who responded to the little questionnaire in our last issue: most of them were interested in most of the possibilities listed. The most popular items, however, were details of new publications by members and information about other learned societies; these were closely followed by articles on work in progress in the history of sociology in different places and news of meetings of other societies, and then by news of members, contents lists of relevant journals, short notices of interesting books and descriptions of useful archives and other sources. The Secretary will do her best to satisfy these preferences, but can only do so well with the help of other members. She hopes, therefore, to receive many such items from volunteers, as well as sometimes inviting them more actively.

It has been suggested that many members might be interested to have a list of forthcoming sociological anniversaries, of which there are likely to be some important ones in the next few years which we might wish to celebrate. Do you have suggestions of dates to be included in such a list? If so, please send them in.

HAVE YOU READ...?

Elfriede Üner recommends: Dorothy Ross *The Origins of American Social Science* (Cambridge U.P., 1991) A provocative analysis of social science discourses in the USA until 1930, including the period before the Civil War. The common assumption that US social science has been mainly formed by technocratic and utilitarian interests is corrected; institutions and political controversies, the inner dynamics of professions and disciplines and, above all, the ideology of American exceptionalism, are included in the explanatory framework.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Is your subscription due? **Yes, it is, if there is a \$ sign by your name** in the following address list. (While you look, please also check that the address used is still correct.) If your sub. is due, please arrange to pay it as soon as possible. Here - with apologies for the complexity, which our need to avoid British bank charges makes necessary - is how to do it. Only people using a British bank account should send their dues to the Secretary; this can be done either by sending a British cheque made out to "RCHS Platt", or by direct transfer to Girobank account 12 574 8302. All other members should send the money to Prof. Dirk Käsler, Universität Hamburg, Institut für Soziologie, Allende-Platz 1, D 2000 Hamburg 13, Germany, or, in continental Europe, to minimize bank charges use the Postal Giro Service: Postgiroamt München (BLZ 700 100 80), Account 822 22-809 Käsler RCHS. He will inform the Secretary of your payment, so only one letter is required - but please think at the same time of sending her news of publications, meetings etc., plus any address changes.

The current subscription is \$10 for one year, or \$30 for 4 years.Members paying in £s should translate that into the equivalent at the tourist rate of exchange; at the time of writing, that is c.£7.07 or £21.20. Members from countries with currency problems are invited to let the Secretary know if they have difficulties, and it may be possible to make arrangements.

Please note that the renewal of your membership is taken to imply that you have no objection to your details being kept on computer, unless you let the Secretary know otherwise.