

# RCHS

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

## NEWSLETTER

April 1995

### CONTENTS

From the Secretary	2
1996 conference plans	2
<u>Current Sociology</u>	6
History of national sociological associations	6
News and Notes	6
Work in progress	7
New members and their interests	8
Recent publications by members	8
Dues information and membership application form	9



Secretary of the RCHS:  
Professor Jennifer Platt  
Arts E  
University of Sussex  
Brighton BN1 9QN  
Sussex  
ENGLAND.

☎ England 01273 606755 x 2446  
fax 01273 673563.

E-mail (from outside UK): [j.platt@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:j.platt@sussex.ac.uk)

**FROM THE SECRETARY**

Please note that both my fax number and my telephone number have now changed. (Almost all British numbers now have a 1 in second place in the area code, in case you have other old numbers on file.)

### **AMSTERDAM CONFERENCE: CALLS FOR PAPERS**

This conference will be held on May 16-18, 1996. Session organisers have provided the following details about what they have in mind for their sessions. To submit papers, or for further information about their sessions, please get in touch with them. *Please note that the deadline for informing them of your interest in giving a paper is 31 July 1995.* The programme will be finalised in early 1996, and may be revised in the light of the papers actually submitted. Practical information about the conference plans will be in the next newsletter.

#### **Sociologists read sociologists**

History of ideas often relies on the concept of a continual dialogue between dead and living thinkers. It can in this way be thought of as a continuous development in which generations read and reformulate the heritage. But one important aspect is often overlooked. Many creative scholars who claim to discuss or refute the ideas of a predecessor are, in fact, discussing their own inventions or contemporary creeds about the intellectual past. The reading of most scholars of the works of others has often been highly selective and/or sketchy. but the distortions and misinterpretations are more than funny events in the development of sociology. Ignorance, prejudice or second-hand knowledge are constitutive parts of the tradition itself.

Contact: Dr Eva Karadi, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Budapest, ELTE, Egyetem ter 1-3, H-1364 Budapest, Hungary, fax 361 266 4091, or Prof. Erhard Stölting, Universität Potsdam, Allg. Soziologie, Pf. 900327, Potsdam, D-14439, Germany, fax 49 331 977 3308.

#### **International exchange and globalization in the development of the social sciences**

Historical reconstructions of the social sciences have often focused on local contexts or national traditions. This session wishes to explore the transnational dimensions of the social sciences, analysing the importance of international connections and exchange, as well as the recent significance of interaction on a global scale. Some questions that might be of interest:

the historical development of international cooperation between social scientists, institutes and professional associations and journals; the development of international exchange (translations, visiting professors, researchers and students; the role played by international organisations in the development of the social sciences; internationalisation and globalisation: are national sociological traditions overruled by a syncretist 'global sociology', or can we see signs of renationalised sociologies? how have communication technologies (telephone, e mail, internet, the electronic highway...) affected international cooperation between social scientists?

Contact: Bart van Heerikhuizen and Johan Heilbron, Vakgroep Sociologie, Oude Hoogstraat 24, 1012 CE Amsterdam, The Netherlands; tel. 31 20 525 2217/2245, fax 31 20 5252179.

### **Case studies of important empirical research projects**

This session provides the opportunity to consider the history and context of several major studies in empirical sociology. Examples - given purely for illustration - of studies which might be the subject of a paper are the Hawthorne experiments, The American Soldier, the work of S. R. Steinmetz, the monographs of the Chicago School, and so on. A group of studies with close affinities could also be the focus. Papers about studies from outside the Anglo-American sphere would be particularly welcome.

Contact: Martin Bulmer, Dept. of Sociology, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH, England; tel. (+44)(0)1483 259456, fax (+44)(0)1483 306290, e mail m.bulmer@soc.surrey.ac.uk.

### **Women's contributions to the development of sociology**

Papers are sought on the women founders and major contributors to the development of sociology in any period; papers dealing with groups, periods, or patterns rather than with individual contributors would also be welcomed. The contributions could be in the articulation of theory, concepts, or methodological assumptions, or in the provision of innovative or otherwise significant examples of research, or in the defence or critique of the discipline. Papers would be welcome on such relatively well-known figures/groups as Macaulay, Martineau, Nightingale, de Stael, Webb, Addams and the other women of Hull-House, and also on lesser-known women or on the generally unknown and newly discovered. Wherever appropriate, papers should show any distinctive perspective that gender brought to bear on the work, or other ways in which gender experience or opportunities influenced it.

Contact: Prof. Lynn McDonald, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1; tel. (519) 824-4120, fax (519) 837-9561.

### **Neo-Kantian influences on German sociology**

Papers may be on such neo-Kantians as Max Weber, Georg Simmel, Ferdinand Tönnies, as well as Ernst Troeltsch and Emil Lask. Writings on their philosophical / sociological interpretations of history, religion and law are welcomed. Completed papers (needing no more than 20 minutes presentation time) are requested to be submitted for consideration by no later than Nov 1, 1995.

Contact: Prof. Christopher Adair-Toteff, The American University in Bulgaria, 2700 Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria; tel. (359) 73-20797, fax (359) 73-25394.

### **Empirical data in the sociology of knowledge**

This session invites participants to consider uses of empirical data in the sociology of knowledge, broadly defined. Even though the the sociology of knowledge is sometimes presented as a 'theoretical' concern, in fact it does not differ from other branches of sociology in the extent to which it offers to account for processes in the real world. Furthermore, most branches of sociology make implicit or explicit assumptions about how social actors and groups come to know, believe or feel as they do - assumptions may be made as if by the way, but which in effect take for granted positions in the the sociology of knowledge. Lastly,

different overall approaches to sociology contain or imply specific views about what 'knowledge' is and how it is produced. In order to discern what empirical bases these assumptions have used or lacked, this session invites speakers to consider how evidence about how individuals or groups actually think, feel, argue and behave has been used in different sociological contexts.

Contact: Dr Ricca Edmondson, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology, University College, Galway, Ireland; tel. ++353 91 24411, fax ++353 91 25700.

### **The Columbia circle of sociologists, 1930-1950.**

This session aims to draw attention to the role of the Columbia circle of sociologists, to counterbalance the one-sided emphasis there has been on the role of the Chicago school. It is particularly interested in the paradigm shift within the discipline reflected in the defeat of MacIver's approach by the Merton- Lazarsfeld one. The circle of culturalistic sociologists led by MacIver included Znaniecki, Abel, von Schelting, Waller and Bierstedt. Of interests are their part in methodological debates (with Lundberg's behaviorism, Lazarsfeld's empiricism, Lynd's praxism), their relations with the milieu of the New School for Social Research (Speier, Solomon, Mayer et al.), the exchange of European and American traditions, the pre-Parsonian reception of the Verstehen issue, and the strength of theorising before functionalism.

Contact: Dr. hab. Elzbieta Halas, Department of Sociology, Aleje Raclawickie 14, Catholic University of Lublin, 20-950 Lublin, Poland; tel./fax 081 304-33, e mail hal@zeus.kul.lublin.pl

### **The knowledge society: history of an idea**

This session invites papers which chart aspects or episodes in the chequered history of the claim of social domination by intellectuals and/or experts. Almost born with sociology itself, and reaching back into its Enlightenment heritage, the epistemocratic claim has recently been subjected to more critical scrutiny, e.g. in the writings of Gouldner, Szelenyi, Bourdieu and Beck. It would be interesting to trace both the prehistory of the claim and criticism of it more closely (e.g. the classical utopias, Enlightenment thinkers, anarchism, Romanticism). Papers that treat the neglected right-wing tradition, or intellectual figures such as Michels, Sombart, De Man, Deat, who have crossed over between Left and Right, will be especially welcome.

Contact: Dick Pels, Graduate School of the Social Sciences, University of Amsterdam, Oude Hoogstraat 24, Amsterdam, NL 1012 CE, The Netherlands; tel. 020-5252262 or 020-6273570 (home), fax 020-5252446, e mail dick.pels@philos.rug.nl

### **Ethics in sociology: the history of concepts and research traditions**

Martin Bulmer's Social Research Ethics examines the ethics of covert participant observation; Roger Homan also discussed this in his The Ethics of Social Research. Both authors value the research methods used by outstanding social researchers. But in the perspective of Zygmunt Bauman, who uses insights from several leading sociologists and philosophers in his Postmodern Ethics, moral phenomena and morality are not universalisable. On the contrary, the postmodern perspective shows the relativity of ethical codes. This session aims

to contribute to this discussion by clarifying normative positions in social considerations. What is there to be said about the responsibility of social researchers, then and now?  
 Contact: Maarten Mentzel, LISWO, Leiden University, Wassenaarsweg 52, 2333 AK Leiden, The Netherlands; tel. 31 71 273845 (from October, 5273845), fax 31 71 273788, e mail Mentzel@rulfsw.LeidenUniv.nl.

### **What are our motives in writing the history of sociology?**

Papers are welcome in which all kinds of motives may be discussed with which sociologists have written or could write the history of sociology, of empirical social research or of social problems. Authors may analyse the approach of research lines or approaches, or present case studies. They could analyse the hidden or overt scientific, sociopsychological or political intentions to use research results for theoretical or practical purposes in various fields of sociology, ranging from women's studies to the development of new technologies and political decisions. The session aims at a systematic discussion on the impetus for historical research on sociology.

Contact: Prof. Dr. Irmela Gorges, FHVR Berlin, Alt Friedrichsfelde 60, 10315 Berlin, Germany; fax 49-30-825 76 78.

### **Author meets critics: Donald Levine, Visions of the Sociological Tradition**

In this session there will be papers discussing Donald Levine's Visions of the Sociological Tradition, and a response by the author. Levine's book, to be published by the University of Chicago Press in the summer of 1995, draws from a wide range of writings on philosophy and social theory, from the Greek tradition to today.

Contact: Prof. Kevin Anderson, Dept. of Sociology, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115, USA; tel. 815 753 6440, fax 815 753 6302 (fax must say 'Sociology').

### **Harvard University as a context for sociology in the 1940s**

No further details are yet available on this.

Contact: Prof. Dr. Uta Gerhardt, Institut für Soziologie, Universität Heidelberg, Sandgasse 9, 69117 Heidelberg, Germany; tel. (0 62 21) 54 29 75, fax (0 62 21) 54 29 96.

### **General session**

This session is available for any papers offered which do not fit the topics of other sessions. Only completed papers, submitted by the end of 1995, will be considered for it, though if you have one which will not be ready by then it would be helpful to let the organiser know by the July 31 deadline of your plan to send it.

Contact: Jennifer Platt (see front of newsletter for address).

### **Biographies of sociologists**

This session has been withdrawn.

✓✕☑✕☑☑☑☑☑✓  
**CURRENT SOCIOLOGY**

The editor of Current Sociology invites proposals for trend reports to be published in it. Each issue of Current Sociology is devoted to a comprehensive Trend Report on a topic of interest to the international community of sociologists. Authors review current trends in all areas of sociological work - theories, methods, concepts, substantive research and national and regional developments. The aim is to analyse ongoing controversies and new tendencies, sketch desirable lines of future work, and provide extensive bibliographies. From time to time commentaries on Trend Reports are published in subsequent issues. If you would like to make a proposal, you should send to the editor (Robert J. Brym, Sociology, University of Toronto, 203 College St., Toronto, Canada M5T 1P9) an outline of the proposed issue and a brief *curriculum vitae*. Contributions may be written in English or French, and a style sheet and detailed notes are available.

### HISTORY OF NATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATIONS

I shall shortly be starting work on a history of the British Sociological Association. I think that the history of national associations is quite a significant part of the history of sociology, and I have not heard of much work having been done on this. Would any colleagues in other countries be interested in doing some work on the history of *their* national sociological association? If they are, I would like to suggest that we might try to draw up some basic agreed guidelines of topics we should aim to cover in each history, and to organise a session for reports on the work done at the next World Congress in 1998. This could obviously lead to some useful comparative possibilities in a potential publication, and would be very appropriate as the ISA to which our associations belong approaches its 50th anniversary. Would anyone who might be interested please let me know as soon as possible? I will then circulate information to all concerned and we can discuss how to take the matter forward.

Jennifer Platt

### NEWS AND NOTES

Cheiron conferences:

Cheiron-Europe (European Society for the History of the Behavioural and Social Sciences) holds its 14th annual conference in Passau, Germany, from 3-7 September, 1995. Papers are particularly invited on a number of topics, which include: the history of the boundaries between social psychology and sociology; psychology and sociology in France and Germany, scholars and scholarly associations in the First or Great World War; has there been a separate tradition of behavioural and social science in Mitteleuropa?; writing the history of the social sciences, how and for whom?; autobiography and the human sciences. The local organiser, from whom further details may be obtained, is Horst Gundlach (Institut für Geschichte der Neueren Psychologie, Universität Passau, 94032 Passau). The deadline for the submission of papers, of maximum length 6 pages double-spaced, was April 15th.

Cheiron-America holds its 27th annual conference at Bowdoin College, in Brunswick, Maine, from June 22-25. Further details may be obtained from Dr Deborah F. Johnson, Dept. of

Psychology, University of Southern Maine, Portland, Maine 04103, USA. The deadline for submitting papers is now past, and the programme fixed; RCHS members might be particularly interested in the session on social-scientific work on juvenile delinquency from 1918 to 1950.

Durkheim's Les formes élémentaires de la vie religieuse: the British Centre for Durkheimian Studies is holding a conference on Durkheim's Les formes élémentaires de la vie religieuse in Oxford on July 11-14, 1995. Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact Dr. W.S.F. Pickering, at British Centre for Durkheimian Studies, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, 51 Banbury Rd., Oxford OX2 6PE, as soon as possible.

The Sociology department of the University of Bordeaux is marking the centenary of Durkheim's Les règles de la méthode sociologique by an international colloquium, to be held there on May 18-20, 1995; the programme will range from the book's context and genesis to positivism in contemporary sociology. Further information is available from Paula Acuna-Pig, Colloque international, Département de Sociologie, 3ter, place de la Victoire, 33076 Bordeaux CEDEX, France.

History of Economics: the annual meeting of the History of Economics Society will be held on 2-5 June 1995 at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, USA; the theme of the meeting is 'The History of Economics: The State of the Art'. Details from James P. Henderson, History of Economics Society, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN 46383, USA (e mail JHENDERSON@EXODUS.VALPO.EDU).

RCHS member Jacques Coenen-Huther edits the Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Soziologie/Revue suisse de sociologie, which publishes articles on the history of sociology (among other topics).

Bjørn Hvinden has now moved from Oslo to the University of Trondheim, where his new address is Dept. of Sociology and Political Science, University of Trondheim, N-7055 DRAGVOLL, Norway.

Barry Smart has left Auckland, New Zealand, for England, where his new address is School of Social and Historical Studies, University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth, Hampshire.

André Petitat has left Montréal for Lausanne, where his address is now Université de Lausanne, Faculté des sciences sociales et politiques, Institut des sciences sociales, BFSH 2-CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland.

### WORK IN PROGRESS

Jacques Coenen-Huther	Durkheim's methodology; Tocqueville.
Christopher Czekaj	The Chicago School of sociology, 1920-1939.
Salvino Salvaggio	What is a founding father?
Barry Smart	Moral sociology, ethics in sociology, reflexivity in sociology.

- Bart van Heerikhuizen Social science education in The Netherlands since 1945.  
 Frederic Vandenberghe Sympathy

### NEW MEMBERS AND THEIR INTERESTS

Unfortunately the excellent new system of paying dues via the ISA office means that new members may not receive our form which asks for their interests; this accounts for omissions below.

- Christopher Czekaj The Chicago School of Sociology, Polish-American sociological connections. (University of Silesia, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Sociology, Ul. Bankowa 11, 40-007 Katowice, Poland.)  
 Maca Jogan (Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, P.O.Box 47, 61109 Ljubljana, Slovenia.)  
 Janet Marontate (PO Box 1552, Wolfville, NS BOP 1X0, Canada; student member.)  
 John Rundell The classical sociologists, their legacies and disputes. (Ashworth Centre for Social Theory, Dept. of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria 3052, Australia.)  
 Tetsuhiko Takai (3-34-7 Inokashira, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo 181, Japan; student member)  
 Bart van Heerikhuizen History of Dutch sociology (University of Amsterdam, Vakgroep Sociologie, Oude Hoogstraat 24, 1012 CE Amsterdam, The Netherlands.)  
 Frederic Vandenberghe Reification, sympathy, philosophical foundations of sociology. (Moeskroensesteenweg 184, 8511 Aalbeke, Belgium.)

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS

- Terry Nichols Clark 'Paul Lazarsfeld and the Columbia sociology machine', presented to Paul Lazarsfeld conference, Paris, December 1994.  
 Johan Heilbron The Rise of Social Theory, Polity Press, Cambridge, 1995.  
 Hans-Peter Müller and Michael Schmid (eds.) Sozialer Wandel: Modellbildung und theoretische Ansätze Suhrkamp, Frankfurt am Main, 1995.  
 Jef C. Verhoeven 'Closed information: the use of privileged data in research reports', in ed. I. Maso et al., Openness in Research: The Tension Between Self and Other, Assen, Van Gorcum, 1995.  
 Kurt Wolff Transformation in the Writing, Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science, 1995.



### DUES INFORMATION

**If there was a \$ by your name in the list in the last newsletter (or on the envelope for this one), please pay as soon as convenient. The basic subscription is \$10 for one year, or \$30 for 4 years.** For students, however, it is \$5 or \$15. The reduced rate also applies to others from non-OECD countries who would have difficulty in paying the full rate; if unable to arrange even the reduced rate, please write to the Secretary to explain the circumstances and ask for free membership.

We now have a facility for paying to the central ISA, which will enable those who wish to use a credit card; a copy of their form is attached to enable you to do this, and it can be used even if you are not at that time also paying the ISA subscription. If you do this, it would be very helpful if you could also send the form below to the Secretary so that you can give her any news items you have. Here - with apologies for the complexity, which our need to avoid our account's high foreign-exchange charges makes necessary - is how to pay if *not* doing so via the ISA. **Only people using a British bank account should send their dues to the Secretary**; this can be done either by sending a cheque made out to "RCHS Platt", or by direct transfer to Girobank account 12 574 8302. (The cheque should be in £ sterling, with the dollar amount translated into the equivalent at the tourist rate of exchange; at the time of writing, that is c.£6.85 or £20.55.) **All other members should send the money to Prof. Dirk Käsler**, Universität Hamburg, Institut für Soziologie, Allende-Platz 1, D 20146 Hamburg, 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, so only one letter is required - but **please think at the same time of sending her news of publications, meetings, work in progress etc., plus any address changes.**

Membership in the RCHS is open to anyone interested in the field.

.....RC  
 HS membership application or renewal

PLEASE TYPE, OR PRINT CLEARLY

Title and name : .....

Mailing address: .....

.....

.....

Major interests in the history of sociology:

.....

.....

Historical work in progress:

.....

I do not object to my membership details being held on computer.