

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

**NEWSLETTER**

**July 1996**

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## From the Secretary

A complete address list of members is given at the end of this newsletter. If your address needs any corrections, please let the Secretary know. An important addition has been made to this, at the suggestion of several members: e mail numbers are included, where they are known. If you have access to e mail and your number does not appear here, please send that - by e mail, naturally!

The address list, updated as required, will only appear in the newsletter once a year, so please keep this issue if you will want to refer to it.



## Report on the Amsterdam conference

The conference was held on May 16-18, in the congenial surroundings of SISWO and Amsterdam. As members will have noted from previous newsletters, sufficient papers were offered for parallel sessions to be held throughout - which inevitably created some dilemmas about which to attend. A few potential paper-givers were unable at the last minute to come, but despite that there were 52 papers, which shows how active members are. It was particularly pleasing to note that at least 18 nationalities were represented, and that there were several students present and playing an active part in discussions.

A well-attended business meeting was held, at which the most important item was the discussion of our potential programme at the World Congress; the sessions proposed are listed below.

The group to evaluate the applications for the Leo P. Chall Dissertation Fellowship was chosen: it is to consist of Dirk Käsler, Denes Nemedi and Stephen Turner.

The secretary reported that the financial situation is generally healthy, though the propensity of some members now to pay RCHS early when renewing their ISA membership may be creating a misleading picture. There is not sufficient in the bank to offer systematic support to members who have difficulty in raising the money to come to meetings, but occasional help should be possible for those from soft-currency countries. Members were urged to submit their news items and announcements to the secretary for the newsletter.

The need for nominations of new Board members in time for elections before the World Congress was mentioned, and the tasks and workload involved were discussed. (Any members not present at the meeting who might be interested in standing are invited to ask the secretary anything they would like to know about this. A nomination form will appear in a subsequent newsletter.)

Finally, Dick Pels, his helpers, and SISWO, were warmly thanked for their excellent organisation and care during the conference.

## World Congress: Montréal 1998

It is time now to start thinking about the sessions we would like to organise for the World Congress. When all the proposals members wish to make are available, decisions will be made about which ones to adopt given the number of timetable slots that have been allocated to us; it may be suggested that proposals of closely related interest might be combined. Any paid-up member(s) may make a proposal; it is understood that members making a proposal are volunteering to take responsibility for organising that session. This involves providing a short 'call for papers', taking any steps to recruit participants as well as receiving offers of papers from the membership generally, deciding on the papers to be included, transmitting the instructions passed on by the Secretary to the participants, sending the information required to the Secretary by the deadlines specified, and chairing or arranging for the chairing of the session at the Congress. It always takes a long time to prepare a World Congress programme, so lists of sessions and papers have to be provided well in advance; we do not yet know the official deadlines, but most of the organisational work may be expected to occur in 1997..

First proposals for possible session topics, made at the Business Meeting at the Amsterdam conference or since, are listed below. If any other member is strongly interested in one of these, and might like to help organise it, or to propose modifications to the formulation of the topic, they should contact the proposer and discuss the matter with them, and the Secretary should be informed of the outcome.

*Further proposals, or modifications to these proposals, should reach the secretary by no later than October 1, 1996.*

Where a short explanatory paragraph has not already been provided, that should be included. (It would be extremely helpful, though it is not essential, if this could be provided on disk in a form usable by Word for Windows 6.) It will then be possible to provide a complete final list in the next newsletter.

### Proposed sessions and organisers

**Construction of sociological knowledge in the colonial setting** (Frank Furedi and Lyn Schumaker)

This session would consider the history of sociology's encounter with colonial societies. Subjects such as the role of metropolitan research institutions, local centres of research, the role of indigenous knowledge, the origins of concepts and theories used to discuss colonial societies are some of the themes to be considered.

**In search of a 'good society': the concept of sociology as a 'moral science' in the history of sociology.** (Dirk Käsler and Maarten Mentzel)

The different courses of the concept of sociology as a scholarly enterprise to formulate scientific designs for the 'good society' in different national traditions; the historical processes of the 'scientific turn' after which even the idea of sociology as a 'moral science' was banned as unscientific; where does sociology stand in this discussion as we approach the 21st century?

**National sociological associations** (Jennifer Platt)

National sociological associations have been given little attention in the history of sociology, but they play a significant role in it both organisationally and intellectually, though that role has differed considerably from one country or period to another. This session will attempt to compare different associations and to relate them to their social contexts. The issues raised may range from their internal organisation and membership to their external political roles, and will include both their intellectual functions and their concern for such matters as research funding and members' employment. (A detailed list of topics which it might be relevant to cover will be circulated to those interested.)

**Histories of the use of sociological concepts in sociological research** (Martin Bulmer)

Concepts mediate the relationship between theory and empirical research. The focus would be on the history of such use of particular concepts; examples could include anomie, social cohesion, charisma, social class, party self-identification, self-reported illness, poverty, religious belief. Discussions of any suitable concept would be considered.

**Interconnections between early sociology and social policy** (Rosalind Sydie)

The interventions of early sociologists in the practical, political arena of social policy.

**Gunnar Myrdal** (Sven Eliaeson)

Myrdal was born in 1898 (so the Congress will mark his centenary); little work has been done on him yet, and there is rich source material which has been little utilised. Themes which could be explored include the following: He played a quite significant role in the diffusion of some important strands of thought, carrying Chicago School concepts to Sweden and instrumental policy analyses in the vein of Weber and Rickert to the USA. He was influenced by both Weber and Axel Hägerstrom (Scandinavian legal realism). His career manifests the role of American philanthropy in the development of European as well as American social science.

**Hegel's social theory** (Christopher Adair-Toteff)

Despite the numerous references to Hegel in sociology and social theory insufficient attention has been paid to his ideas. This session would be devoted to helping to rectify this situation. Hegel is a dialectical thinker, and that means in part that he is one of the foremost thinkers who had a deep and abiding interest in social interaction at all levels. Topics in this session might include Hegel on recognition, on the family, the community, the society and the state, as well as his influence on sociological traditions.

**The history of sociology and the stabilisation of disciplinary identity** (Paolo Barbesino and Salvino Salvaggio)

The debate around postmodernism has shown to what extent sociology is still far from being capable of drawing its boundaries towards either other social science disciplines or the free floating discourse of public opinion. This lack is often filled by resorting to the history of sociology as a way of stabilising a specific disciplinary identity. The session should therefore aim at investigating the role of the history of sociology by both mapping out the development of different historiographies and questioning the performative function of their narration. In this light, a particular emphasis should be given to the constitution of a disciplinary canon and to the role attributed to the 'founding fathers' within it.

**Studies and restudies of communities** (Jean-Michel Chapoulie)

What can we learn from such studies about the history of sociology? This could be approached through looking at either classic one-off community studies, or restudies.

**Sociology in Canada and Québec** (Rick Helmes-Hayes)  
(Further details available from proposer.)

**The founding of German sociology: intellectual origins and social contexts** (Theresa Wobbe, John Drysdale)  
(Further details available from proposer.)

**East European traditions of sociology** (Hans-Peter Müller)  
(Further details available from proposer.)

**Changing discourses in Eastern and Central Europe** (Eva Karadi)  
(Further details available from proposer.)

**Harriet Martineau** (Michael Hill)  
(Further details available from proposer.)

## Members' work in progress

Andrzej Dabrowski	The emergence of sociological tradition in Denmark
Göran Dahl	Radical conservatism and the future of politics
Ricca Edmondson	Comparison of Wolff's and Mannheim's approaches to the sociology of knowledge.
Nicholas Gane	Politics and ethics in the work of Max Weber
Eric Mendelsohn	Thesis on Hannah Arendt
Hans-Peter Müller	Durkheim as a classic sociological thinker
Henri Peretz	The WPA (Works Progress Administration) and its impact.
Isher-Paul Sahni	MA thesis on the metonymic allusions to Faust in Weber's <u>Protestant Ethic</u> .
Hans-Joachim Schubert	Cooley and symbolic interactionism
Lyn Schumaker	History of the Manchester School anthropologists
Mahmoud Dhaouadi	The thought of Ibn Khaldun and its relation to contemporary social-scientific thought.
Tony Varley	Arensberg and Kimball in Ireland



## New members and their interests

*The purpose of this list is to enable members with related interests to contact each other. If new members have not yet sent any information, they are not listed here. Anyone who has not done so is warmly invited to send details of their historical interests and work in progress for a future listing.*

Stephanie Adair-Toteff in	Settlement movements; social reform. (American University Bulgaria, 2700 Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria)
Bjarne Andersson administrative 35, DK	Development of fields of sociology, especially the aspects. (Roskilde University, Box 258, Marbjergvej 4000 Roskilde, Denmark)
Andrzej Dabrowski	Institutional history of sociology (Roskilde University, Box 258, Marbjergvej 35, DK 4000 Roskilde, Denmark)
Göran Dahl	Weimar sociology; Mannheim, Gehlen, Scheler. (Sociology Department, Box 114, S-22100 Lund, Sweden)
Nicholas Gane	Sociological theory (29 Ludlow Rd., Earsldon, Coventry CV5 6JA, England.)
Pat Duffy Hutcheon	Implications of evolutionary theory for the development of social-scientific thought (904-100 Beach Avenue, Vancouver BC, Canada V6E 4M2.)
Eric Mendelsohn	Weber, Habermas, Frankfurt School. (5363 du Parc, Montréal, Québec, Canada H2V 4G9)
Henri Peretz	History of field work in the USA, black sociology, photography and sociology (48 rue Liancourt, 75014 Paris, France.)
Helga Reimann Universitätsstrasse	Cultural sociologists (Universität Augsburg, 2, D- 86135 Augsburg, Germany)
Isher-Paul Sahni	Weber, his relationship to Goethe, critical theory and discourse ethics. (1460 Dr Penfield, no. 1003, Montréal , Québec, Canada H36 1B8)
Hans-Joachim Schubert	History of ideas, urban sociology, family and group sociology (Universität Potsdam, Allgemeine Soziologie, PF 900327, 14439 Potsdam, Germany.)
Lyn Schumaker	History of anthropology and sociology in Africa; medical sociology in Africa. (Wellcome Unit, Maths Tower, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, England.)
Victor Skretkowicz	Florence Nightingale's social policies; social policy in nineteenth-century fiction (Dept. of English, University of Dundee, Dundee, Scotland, DD1 4HN.)
Tony Varley College,	Arensberg and Kimball in Ireland; the Yankee City studies (Dept. of Political Science and Sociology, University Galway, Ireland.)



## Recent publications by members



- Pat Duffy Hutcheon Leaving the Cave: Evolutionary Naturalism in Social Scientific Thought (Waterloo, Ont.: Wilfred Laurier University Press, 1996)
- Dick Pels 'Historical positivism', History of the Human Sciences 9: 113-121, 1996. (Review article on Heilbron, The Rise of Social Theory.)
- Dick Pels 'Karl Mannheim and the sociology of scientific knowledge: toward a new agenda', Sociological Theory 14: 30-48, 1996.
- Dick Pels 'The politics of symmetry', Social Studies of Science 26 (special issue on the politics of the sociology of scientific knowledge): 277-304, 1996
- Jennifer Platt 'The Vienna Circle in the US and empirical research methods in sociology' (with Paul Hoch) in ed. Mitchell G. Ash and Alfons Söllner, Forced Migration and Scientific Change Washington DC: Cambridge University Press, 1996.)
- Zoltan Tarr  
Tarr  
1995) Werner J. Cahnman, Weber and Tönnies, edited and introduced by with J.B.Maier and Judith Marcus (New Brunswick: Transaction, 1995)
- Bryan Turner (ed.) The Blackwell Companion to Social Theory (Oxford: Blackwell, 1996)
- Frank Welz  
Verlag, Kritik der Lebenswelt: Eine soziologische Auseinandersetzung mit Edmund Husserl und Alfred Schütz (Opladen: Westdeutscher Verlag, 1996).
- Theresa Wobbe 'Karrieren im nationalen Kontext: soziologinnen in Deutschland', pp.93-114 in Jahrbuch für Soziologiegeschichte (Opladen: Leske & Budrich, 1995).
- Theresa Wobbe 'Rosa Mayreden (1858-1938): politik, macht und soziale Bewegung', Archiv der deutschen Frauenbewegung 28: 10-15, 1995
- Theresa Wobbe 'Funktionale und segmentäre Differenzierung: ethnische Gemeinschaftsbeziehungen bei Weber', pp.700-704 in ed. H Dahner & Stefan Schwendtner, 27 Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie (Opladen: Westdeutscher Verlag, 1995).

### Abstracts Project: reminder

The ISA project to draw important sociological work not abstracted in the major data bases to the attention of the international community continues. The plan is to make regular English-language abstracts of articles in languages less widely known internationally among sociologists, to be published in Sociological Abstracts (SA).

To submit an abstract, send it directly to SA, together with a copy of the complete article in its original language and a copy of the journal page showing the journal title, subtitle and ISSN. (The abstract should use the standard SA abstracting form, available from them at fax 1-619-8803, e mail [socio@cerfnet.com](mailto:socio@cerfnet.com)) RCHS members are invited to contribute to this.

### News and Notes

Simon Schwartzman, of RC 23, is trying to organise for the EASST meeting at Bielefeld on Oct. 10-13 a session on 'The sociology of public statistics'. Interested people should get in touch with him as soon as possible on [sschwart@omega.lncc.br](mailto:sschwart@omega.lncc.br), or fax +55-21-275-1410.

Michael Hill is attempting to organise a Harriet Martineau Sociological Society, for sociologists interested in the work of Harriet Martineau; an inaugural seminar in the USA is proposed for early summer 1997, with a view to a session on Martineau at the 1998 World Congress. Interested members are invited to get in touch with him.

Bryan Turner draws attention to the fact that the Blackwell Companion to Social Theory which he has just edited contains a chapter by R.J. Holton on 'Classical social theory' which may interest RCHS members. He is also editing a series of boxed sets of classical social theory, with special reference to its origins in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Guy Oakes draws attention to the International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society, one of the major areas of interest of which is the history of sociology; it has recently published papers on Park, Salomon, Weber, German sociology in the Nazi period, the Southwest German School, and Veblen. Members interested in submitting papers to it should get in touch with the principal editors, Prof. E. Doyle McCarthy (Dept. of Sociology, Fordham University, Bronx, NY 10458, USA) or Prof. Arthur Vidich (Dept. of Sociology, The Graduate Faculty, New School for Social Research, 65 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10003, USA).

Reminder: the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie meets in Dresden from 7-11 October 1996, and at this meeting the Arbeitsgemeinschaft 'Sozial- und Ideengeschichte der Soziologie' will be organising a double session on Oct.10th on the theme 'Klassische Theorien von Gesellschaftlichen Übergangsprozessen als Erklärungsgrundlage aktueller Krisensituation'. This will include papers on Tönnies (Cornelius Bickel), Durkheim (Lothar Peter), Gumpłowicz (Manfred Laueremann), Simmel/Weber (Wilfried Dreyer), Parsons (Uta Gerhardt) and 'Soziale Symbiose' (Gerhard Wagner). For further information, please contact either Prof. Dr. Carsten Klingemann, Universität Osnabrück, Fachbereich Sozialwissenschaften, Seminarstrasse 33, D - 49069 Osnabrück, or Prof. Dr. Peter-Ulrich Merz-Benz, Universität Zürich, Soziologisches Institut, Rämestrasse 69, CH - 8001 Zürich.

The following members have changed address recently: Mitchell Ash, Paolo Barbesino, Paul Close, Neil McLaughlin, Takeshi Ohgane and Nico Stehr. Please note their new addresses in the list below.



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E mail numbers, where known, appear at the end of addresses, after the name of the country in capital letters; be careful not to confuse these with postal codes!

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