



Newsletter

September 1999

Secretary

Christian Fleck

(from September 1, 1999 to May 28, 2000:)

Center for Scholars and Writers

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Contents

From the Secretary	1
Letter from the President, No. 3.....	2
Interim Conference, Torun 2000	2
Remembering Gerd Schroeter	6
Directory of Members: Corrections and Addenda .	7
New Members.....	7
Recent Publications by Members	8
News and Notes	9
Membership Dues.....	11

From the Secretary

First of all I'd like to draw your attention to the fact that I'll be temporarily absent from Graz. Please use during this time the address listed in the left colume for snail mail, though I prefer email.

The preparatory work for the forthcoming interim conference in Torun, Poland is proceeding well. There has been only one cancellation with regards to a suggested session but some changes in the organizing team. Fortunately additional session topics have been submitted during the last months.

I'd like to remind all organizers and presenters of papers that due to the rules of RCHS every active participant should be a member in good standing. Everyone will find the expiring date of his/her membership in the right corner above of the address label.

Once again I'd like to invite members to send in their homepage address to included them in the next membership directory, or to announce them in the correction and addenda section.

Hope you will enjoy the third and temporarily last newsletter from Austria.

Letter from the President, No. 3

Obliteration by incorporation: The sometimes upsetting character of the History of Sociology

by Dirk Kaesler

From Robert K. Merton we know this ultimate characteristics of that - very rare- type of knowledge that revolutionises the whole of human wisdom. While the whole of humankind embraces this type of knowledge, incorporates it into its common knowledge – it forgets its creator(s). You do not have to even know about the existence of Sir Isaac Newton, as long as your car works properly. That the ideas of this very man have something to do with those ideas that stood behind the functioning of your car is – for most people – quite irrelevant knowledge. Newton's findings have become incorporated into common human knowledge, and the man who found the rules that govern theoretical mechanics may be lost in obliteration.

Why I think about this perfect sociological insight by Robert Merton? Because I think that this is the type of fate much of sociology's contribution to human wisdom is facing right now. The more sociological findings, terms and concepts are incorporated into common human knowledge, permanently reproduced by the media, the more urgent the question of the necessity of sociology seems to become. It was during the Berlin-conference in July at the occasion of the publication of the two volumes of the "Classics of Sociology" that this type of radical critique of sociology was raised again in some Berlin

papers. The more sociological concepts like "role-model", "self-fulfilling prophecy", "Matthew Effect" etc. (just to mention some other Mertonian contributions to sociological knowledge) are used - and very often abused - by the public and the media, the more the question comes up: Why do we need sociology at all? The puzzling situation is this: At the same time while core sociological concepts like "modernisation", "globalisation", "individualisation" are in every newspaper column the same journalists openly question: "Who needs sociology any longer?"

I think it is clear that one of the tasks of us sociologists who (still) care for the history of sociology is exactly this: we can show that much – if not most – of the knowledge of people and media about social phenomena and social processes has been created by sociologists. And as much praise it may be for a scholar that his or her findings, concepts and theories have become part of the common wisdom of humankind as much it is the scholarly duty of us as sociologists who deal with the history of our discipline to preserve and guard the memory of the cultural heritage and contributions of sociologists to this human wisdom. And this we sometimes will have to do against scepticism and resistance, even within the discipline itself. Sometimes it may be upsetting if we have to say that some (seemingly) new and revolutionary concepts and terms have been invented, elaborated and refined a long time ago. (Claimed) originality by (historical) ignorance thus can easily be disguised: it might make the constant re-invention of the wheel somewhat more tricky, even in sociology!

To communicate with me by E-mail: kaesler@mail.uni-marburg.de

RCHS-Intermin Conference, Torun, Poland, June 1-4, 2000

Planned Sessions and Call for Papers

Those members - and still non-members - who are interested to give a paper should send an abstract of at least 200 words directly to the organizer. Deadline für submitting abstracts: December 20, 1999. A provisional program will appear in the January 2000 newsletter.

The local organizer in Torun is Janusz Mucha, (Katedra Socjologii, Uniwersytet Mikolaja Kopernika, ul. Mickiewicza 121, PL 87-100 Torun, Poland, phone: 48-56-27640; Fax: 48-56-24765; E-mail: [jmucha@cc.uni.torun.pl](mailto:jmuch@cc.uni.torun.pl))

Biographies in the History of Sociology

In the history of sociology we all are familiar with some very influential autobiographies (e.g. Beatrice Webb 1926), with famous historical biographies (e.g. Marianne Weber 1926), but also some promi-

nent scholarly biographies of select sociologists (e.g. Hans-Georg Drescher 1991; Friedrich Lenger 1994; Steven Lukes 1973; Arthur Mitzman 1970; Kitty Muggeridge 1967; Mary Pickering 1994; Henk E. S. Woldring 1986). Not only have some of them impregnated our knowledge and impression of the times and lives concerned but also shaped our ideas about the main ideas of these authors.

In this session papers are invited that deal with the impact and importance of biographies for the reconstruction and understanding of the history of sociology, but also with the challenge to write in this genre from a sociological point of view.

Organizer: Dirk Kaesler, Institut für Soziologie, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Am Grün 1, Fronhof, D-35032 Marburg, Germany; Fax: +49-6421-288978; E-mail: kaesler@mail.uni-marburg.de

Sociologists in Two Worlds

The aim of this session is to reflect on the life and work of sociologists who have spent substantial parts of their adult lives in more than one country, working in the context of different national sociological traditions. There are many examples, including Florian Znaniecki in Poland and the United States, Paul Lazarsfeld in Austria and the United States, Karl Mannheim in Germany and Britain, Norbert Elias in Germany, Britain and the Netherlands, Everett Hughes in Canada and the United States, Alfred Schutz in Austria and the United States, Edward Shils in the United States and Britain, Claude Lévi-Strauss in France and Brazil, and so on. Papers may focus on the life of the scholar, their work in the two different societies, the national contexts, or some mix of the three. A paired comparison might also be attempted.

Organizer: Martin Bulmer, Professor of Sociology, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH, UK. Telephone: +44-1483-259456 Fax +44-1483-259551; E-mail: m.bulmer@soc.surrey.ac.uk

Value-Incommensurability at the Turns of the Centuries

About a century ago several scholars appeared with similar anti-metaphysic messages, formulated rather independently from each other. The difficulties to judge between different competing ultimate values on rational and intersubjective grounds seemingly meant both problems and prospects for dealing with uncontrolled value intrusion and objectivity, which appears as a perennial paradigmatic divide over the last two centuries.

There are clear affinities between Hans Kelsen's legal positivism, Weber's "scientific value-relativism", the Finlandian sociologist Edvard Westermarck's cultural-anthropological relativism and the Swedish philosopher Axel Hägerström's so called value-nihilism. Hägerström's negative value ontology is the most radical position, inspired by Stevenson's "emotivism", claiming that there is no "science in moral, only about morals"; according to Hägerström value judgements were to be compared to sneezings or coughs, cognitively meaningless, "neither false, nor true".

The various expressions of anti-metaphysics and anti-natural law "relativism" might well be seen as a response to what Ernst Troeltsch had characterized as the crisis of historicism, i.e. a moral crisis of "polytheism" in the wake of the demise of natural law value objectivism. We need points of departure for rationalizing means-end-oriented value hierarchies but lack intersubjective criteria of selection.

Several of the themes are "ever fresh". Both Weber and Hägerström are relevant for current "post-modern" debates about - for instance - "Beyond Left and Right", "The necessity of responsible choice" and "Lokalvernunft" as well as "The End of ideologies" and "the is-ought-gulf-question". The wishful strive for firm value basis by neo-Aristotelian refoundations and recent communitarians reflects a shift of the burden of proof, in dealing with a painful insight of Enlightenment. For instance Zygmunt Bauman's search for ethics seemingly shares the

problem formulation with a radical nihilist as Hägerström.

Papers dealing with the problems of value-incommensurability and its perils and consequences, and how this has been dealt with in various discursive communities (like Heidelberg neo-Kantians, neo-Thomists or US-Straussians), are welcome.

Organizer: Sven Eliaeson, Box 3340, SE-712 94 Grythyttan, Sweden, E-mail: Sven.Eliaeson@kau.se

Neo-Kantianism and the Problem of Values

Neo-Kantianism (1870-1930) is a critical period in German intellectual history when a number of thinkers from many different areas took up the problem of values. As heirs to Marx and Nietzsche, thinkers such as Toennies, Simmel, Weber, and Troeltsch attempted to investigate in what ways values were introduced, continued, or changed by various people and differing groups. Thus, the problem of values lies at the very foundation of classical German Sociology. The organizer welcomes papers on a wide variety of topics provided that they are centered on the Neo-Kantians and their approaches to the problem of values.

Organizer: Christopher Adair-Toteff, The American University in Bulgaria, 2700 Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, E-mail: csat@nws.aubg.bg

In Search of a 'Good Society': The Concept of Sociology as a 'Moral Science' in the History of Sociology

The presentations during the session on this issue during the World Congress in Montréal in 1998 left several questions unanswered. This session continues this research on 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 session will attempt to have input in particular from research traditions in Western and Central Europe. Again the subject discussed is: where does sociology stand in the debate with other academic experts about values and morals as we enter the 21st century?

Organizer: Maarten Mentzel School of Systems Engineering and Policy Analysis (SEPA), Delft University of Technology, P.O. Box 5015, 2600 GA Delft NL, Tel. +31 (15) 278 8458/8380; Fax +31 (15) 278 3429; E-mail: mentzel@sepa.tudelft.nl

William James and Sociology

William James is remembered for his influence on the development of psychology and philosophy. His impact on sociology is much greater than it is generally acknowledged. For instance, Durkheim delivered a series of lectures on Pragmatism in which William James is seriously discussed. Weber, Mannheim, Sorel, Mead, Cooley, Parsons and others have also felt the need to address James and his ideas. Nevertheless, sociological theorists and historians of sociology have tended not to give James the attention he deserves. The proposed panel is a timely opportunity to bring together pa-

pers on James and his importance to the history of sociology, and to sociological theory today.

Organizer: Jack Barbalet. Sociology - Arts, Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra ACT 0200, Australia, E-mail: jack.barbalet@anu.edu.au; from November 1999 on: Department of Sociology, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH, England.

Archives on the History of Sociology

Archives are of central importance to work in the history of sociology, and their character and roles merit serious attention. RCHS members might usefully aim to reach some consensus on what kinds of archive are needed, and then to do what they can to get gaps in provision in their own spheres of activity filled. This session hopes to contribute to that process, as well as encouraging creative use of the archives which are available. Papers are invited which propose principles to be followed in the creation of an adequate archive for the history of sociology, which give analytical descriptions of existing archives (especially less-known ones) and new potential uses for them, which illustrate imaginative ways of using archival material, or which relate to the topic in some other way.

Organizer: Jennifer Platt, Arts E, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QN, Sussex, England. tel. 01273 606755 x2446; fax 01273 673563; E-mail: j.platt@sussex.ac.uk

Reification Revisited

This session aims to stimulate a dialogue between classical and critical theories of reification and fetishism, from Hegel and Marx to Lukacs and Habermas, and the stream of new theories which, by taking a materialist turn, have reopened debates about the performance of social order and the ontology of social institutions. The materialist turn taken by new approaches such as the constructivist studies of science and technology, the anthropology and geography of material culture, or the new sociologies of time and space, emphatically points towards the formative and grounding significance of 'things' in the stabilization of social reality - a fact which has supposedly been lost on mainstream social and political theory. The session will be concerned to inquire if, and if so, to what extent, classical and modern sociologies have indeed neglected 'object-centered sociality', and what insights a renewed confrontation with the historical record may yield for a critical theory of reification.

Organizers: Dick Pels, Dept. of Human Sciences, Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middx. UB8 3PH, United Kingdom, phone: 31-20-5252262; Fax: 31-20-5252446; E-mail: dick.pels@brunel.ac.uk, and Frederic Vandenberghe, Dept of Human Sciences, Uxbridge, Middx. UB8 3PH, United Kingdom, E-mail: f.vandenberghe@brunel.ac.uk

The History of Predictions Made for the Year 2000

During the last decades social scientists refer frequently to the year 2000 as a reference point for predictions, and prophecies too. After arriving the magical watershed date it seems to make sense to

look back to the some of the forecastings and prophecies. This session will deal with sociological and historical analysis of some of these studies, their preconditions and discuss the validity of the proposed past predictions, in substantive and methodological perspective.

Organizers: Christian Fleck, Center for Scholars and Writers, New York Public Library, 5th Ave, 42nd St, New York, N.Y. 10018-2788, USA; E-mail: christian.fleck@kfunigraz.ac.at and Gallina Tasheva, Fakultät für Soziologie, Universität Bielefeld, Postfach 100131, D 33501 Bielefeld, Germany, phone: 49-521-100273; Fax: 49-521-1062988; E-mail: gallina.tasheva@post.uni-bielefeld.de

Schools and Research Programmes in Sociology and their Dynamics

The history of Sociology tends to be focused on the 'Great men' of the discipline, but in addition it is clear that there have been important networks and groupings of sociological scholars, and their work and the social mechanisms at play in producing this work continue to need exploration. This session offers the opportunity to explore the area of collective scholarship.

Organizer: Charles Crothers, Dept. of Sociology, University of Natal, King George V Avenue, Durban, Natal 4001, South Africa, phone: 27-31-2602442; Fax: 27-31-2602347; E-mail: crothers@mtb.und.ac.za

Centenaries: Simmel's 'Philosophie des Geldes,' Jellinek's 'Allgemeine Staatslehre' et.al.

Organizer: Uta Gerhardt, Lehrstuhl für Soziologie II, Universität Heidelberg, Sandgasse 9, D 69117 Heidelberg, Germany, phone: 49-6221-542975; Fax: 49-6221-542977; E-mail: gi8@ix.urz.uni-heidelberg.de

Fin-de-siècle Revisted

Organizer: Hans-Peter Müller, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Institut für Sozialwissenschaften, Universitätsstraße 3b, D 10099 Berlin, Germany, phone: +49-30-2093-4355, Fax: +49-30-2093-4365; E-mail: hpmueller@sowi.hu-berlin.de

Issues of Inclusion: Women Sociologists, Minority Sociologists, and the Sociological Canon

Organizer: Patricia Lengermann, 613 Utica St., Ithaca, NY 14850, USA, phone: 1-607-2777396; E-mail: patleng@ibm.net

Polish Contributions to Sociology

The connection between Polish sociologists and sociological thought throughout the world has a long history, beginning with the formation of the sociology department, and Institute of sociology in 1920 and the Polish Sociological Review from 1930 under the headship of Florian W. Znaniecki at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. Many Polish sociologists have participated in the International Sociological Association. Jan Szczepanski, was even one

of its presidents and others have contributed to sociological knowledge in many fields.

Organizer: Helena Znaniecka Lopata, Loyola University Chicago Chicago, IL 60626, USA, E-mail: HelenaZL@aol.com or HLOpata@luc.edu

The City in the History of Sociology: Simmel, Durkheim and Weber in the Light of the Urban Experience

In the recent years, the classical sociological works of this three authors are revisited and reevaluated. Above all, Georg Simmel was found to be answering the new appearing cleavages of urban society. See f.e. D.Bouchet. Information technology, the Social Bound and the City: Georg Simmel Updates. in: Built Environment, Vol. 24, NOS 2/3, S. 104-133 or my reference to Simmel in Wie werden wir in der globalisierten Stadt leben? In: Vorgänge, 1/98, S. 10-19. The session should have a reexamining eye on the sociological history of urban perception and should reconsider the possible strategies for social research. It would be furthermore interesting to draw a line to the History of the Chicago School and the mutual influences to the European evolution of the Urban Sociology under the auspices of the scholars of the "Big Three".

Organizer: Frank Eckardt, Bauhaus-University Weimar, Dep. Sociology and Social History of the City, Marienstr. 5, D 99421 Weimar, Germany, phone: +49-3643-583804, Fax. +49-3643-583332; E-mail: frank.eckardt@archit.uni-weimar.de

Contemporary Concerns, Traditional Inscriptions: The Chicago School of Sociology

In this session participants will consider contemporary concerns and areas of research that were addressed by scholars in the department of sociology/anthropology at the University of Chicago during the first part of the twentieth century. In what ways have concepts, methods and insights originating at Chicago been developed so that they continue to inform current sociological undertakings?

Organizer: Barbara Ballis Lal, Dept. of Sociology UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, USA, E-mail: Barbaralal@aol.com

Interdisciplinarity: Lessons from History

The number of centers of interdisciplinarity in the world has been growing in an exponential fashion. There are also many possible approaches. The distinction between multi-, inter- and transdisciplinarity is, among others, one of the well-known distinctions. There are differences in opinion, e.g., between interdisciplinarity as a discipline as such and interdisciplinarity as a co-operation of autonomous disciplines.

Therefore different views of interdisciplinarity could be discussed, of the ancient Greek sophists, the Roman orators, Francis Bacon, Komensky, Leibniz, Locke, Condillac and the "idéologues", the Encyclopedists, Voltaire, the historian Michelet,

Humboldt and others. Historical contributions could be discussed as well as contemporary initiatives, like Interstudy, Association for Integrative Studies, Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Forschung of Bielefeld, the Santa Fe Institute of New Mexico, the TEMA Institute of Linköping and CLEA of Brussels.

Co-operative associations (e.g., between medical science and biology or between economy and sociology), typically interdisciplinary themes (e.g., business science, administrative science, environmental science, health care), different approaches (multi-, inter- and transdisciplinarity) could be dealt with.

Another part of papers could be creative. It could contain a number of lectures that are dedicated to a particular topic. This topic is multi-, inter- or transdisciplinary in nature and is connected with a number of disciplines. However, it is also possible to choose for themes which transcend the limits of disciplines because of their (methodological) nature: qualitative and quantitative research, problem-solving in science, science and policy, causality, validity, systems theory, micro-foundations of macrotheories, fundamental and applied research, and many other themes. Another entry could be more empirical, e.g., the investigation of problems and propensities of co-operation of interdisciplinary teams. Recent developments in the study of order and chaos, as initiated by Nobel Prize Winner Ilya Prigogine, offer the opportunity to elaborate transdisciplinary themes, in which new conceptual frames are studied beyond the existing disciplines in yet unexplored domains of application.

Organizer: Jacques J.A. Tacq, Catholic University of Brussels, Vrijheidslaan 17, 1080 Brussels, Belgium; phone: 00-32-2-4124215; Fax: 00-32-2-4124200; E-mail: jacques.tacq@kubruessel.ac.be

Author meets Critics

Suggestions should be sent to the secretary, including names of authors, titles of books and possible critics.

General Sessions

According to the tradition of RCHS papers who won't fit in one of the above mentioned sessions could be presented here.

Organizer: Christian Fleck, Center for Scholars and Writers, New York Public Library, 5th Ave, 42nd St, New York, N.Y. 10018-2788, USA, E-mail: christian.fleck@kfunigraz.ac.at

Remembering Gerd Schroeter

By Alan Sica

Dept of Sociology, Penn State University

To learn that someone has died unexpectedly or prematurely is always shocking, especially when the dead is so undeserving of a hasty departure. Gerd Schroeter's sudden disappearance from the intellectual scene reminds me of how good he was at what he did, and how he overcame with laconic humor and honesty what Adorno called the "damaged life" -- that bitter fruit of the Second World War. He was once characterized by a mutual friend of ours in Kansas as possessed of "an ear for the queer," which I took to be a compliment as much as an analysis. He knew first-hand the peculiarities of history and odd quirks of fate, which visited him one last time long before they should have.

I last saw Gerd at the recent ASA meeting in Toronto after a lapse of a decade or so, and he seemed as agelessly congenial and sincerely engaging as ever. He was that slightly built kind of enduring creature who, with a twinkle in the eyes, one imagines will last forever, chattering on into his late 80s about earlier days long after most of his generation have disappeared. To have him slip away in the night, and without having had the chance for another talk or letter, is truly an unsettling event.

Recently the American Sociological Association agreed to help set up a national archive of sociological materials in the library at Penn State. Among the most interesting materials that will eventually be deposited there, I suspect, will be private letters sociologists have thought to preserve -- which prompts the following archivally anchored tale, of the sort I think Gerd would have liked. During the mid-80s, Gerd and I shared the editing duties of a fledgling journal called *History of Sociology*, while I served as its amateur publisher. Its immediate predecessor was the *Journal of the History of Sociology*, begun in 1978. In its second year I was asked to become its book review editor, mainly because I had submitted a manuscript which argued that Weber and Pareto knew of each other and chose not to cite each other's work -- a contention which at the time was heretical and, I thought, somewhat provocative given their respective attitudes toward "the irrational" in social action.

Looking into my letter files, I have found in "Folder 1" my first two letters from Gerd, one dated November 20, 1978 to Glenn Jacobs, then editor of the *JHS*, and another from December 12, 1978 directed to me, in response to my "answer" to his critique of the paper I had submitted. In all the years since, through hundreds of manuscript reviews I have read -- as editor of *Sociological Theory*, associate editor of both *AJS* and *ASR*, and so on -- I cannot remember having seen any more intelligently informed, precise, and genuinely useful criticisms than those Gerd provided me in my first attempt at publication in a refereed journal. To illustrate his

character, allow me to quote from his remarks, wishing I could give them entirely:

This is a most interesting manuscript, well-organized, generally well-written, focused on a specific question and obviously germane to fostering a more accurate "history of sociology". (My one qualification is that I find footnote 1 excessively long -- it turns out, indeed, to be rather a "red herring.")

I have no doubts that the essay should be published, but to make it even better, would like to raise the following points:

1. The "omphalos" of Sica's article is clearly the discovery that Weber's habilitation was published in Vol. II of *Biblioteca di Storia Economica*. This has, however, been previously pointed out (without details or even a reference) by Piet Tommissin, "Vilfredo Pareto," in *KLASSIKER DES SOZIOLOGISCHEN DENKENS*. Ed. Dirk Kasler. Vol. I (1976), p. 476, fn. 4. [In his review in *AJS*, LXXXIV (Sept. 1978), pp. 486 - 488, Guy Oakes calls this essay "the most ambitious piece of scholarship" in a collection which "surpasses any comparable volumes in the Anglo-American literature".] Tommissin also refers to Julien Freund, *VILFREDO PARETO. LA THEORIE DE L'EQUILIBRE* (Paris: Seghers, 1974), pp. 187 - 192, where the possible Weber-Pareto connections are apparently discussed. [Tommissin's fn 322]. I don't have access to the Freund book. 2. Concerning Pareto's knowledge of German, Tommissin points to a letter written in 1894 to Knud Wicksell (contained in Vol. XIX of the *Librairie Droz* series) where he claims that his knowledge of German is poor/inadequate. Kurt Wolff points out in his essay in *TRYING SOCIOLOGY* (p. 7) that "Pareto knew no German." (Eisermann is a lot more likely to be right on this question, though.)

3. Concerning Weber's knowledge of Italian, there is an interesting account in Roberto Michels, article, "Max Weber," *Nuovo Antologia*, CCIX (1920), p. 360:

Dell'Italia il Weber aveva un concetto simpatico. Aveva un'alta opinione della scienza economica, e piu ancora, di quella politica italiana. Apprezzo il Loria che conobbe personalmente a Torino. Ebbe un'idea altissima del Machiavelli, del Botero e, tra i moderni, di Gaetano Mosca. Parlava italiano, se non con purezza, con sufficiente disinvoltura. Lo ricordo in un pranzo di amici, a Torino, dall'on...

Schroeter's letter goes on like this, in several languages, for another full page, through "point 7," each of them precisely anchored in the literature, and all helpful to me in clarifying and amplifying the argument, even when I disagreed with the conclusions he took from what he'd read. I wrote him detailed response to every point -- novice professors have lots of energy for that sort of thing -- and he

swiftly answered with another two-page letter, in a thoroughly gentlemanly, persistently helpful manner: "Let me point out that I appreciated your comments fully as much as you appreciated mine, since I too work in isolation (undoubtedly even more so in the "physical" sense than you do)...Your letter is every bit as interesting as your manuscript: are you trying to live up to Nietzsche's insightful observation reflected in Aphorism 319 of Human, All Too Human?" As his letters demonstrate, Gerd was altruistic to an extreme, handing over to me (and anybody else

who asked) the fruits of his own meticulous research, very little of which he ever published (his dissertation on Geiger ought to have become a book, I have no doubt). I do not know of scholars like Schroeter anymore, though they may be out there, quietly living the life of patient kindness, aiding their fellow researchers selflessly. But I doubt it. His death reminds me, too heavily perhaps, of what is suddenly and irreplaceably lost, in terms of sheer knowledge and genteel interaction, when people like him become absent from our world.

Directory of Members: Corrections and Addenda

Ola Agevall

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Martin Albrow

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Jack Barbalet

is moving to Leicester University. From November 1999 his address will be Department of Sociology, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH, England.

Dieter Bögenhold

Correction of e-mail address:
Priv.-Doz. Dr. Dieter Boegenhold - Bremen University -Research Unit 'Work & Region' - Parkallee 39, D 28209 Bremen - Germany - phone office: 49-421-218-4059/3290, fax: office: - 49-421-218- 2680, phone home: 49-4403-1441, fax home: 49-4403-1371, e-mail: boegenhold@nwn.de

Willy Guneriussen

would like to change the title for him. It is a few years since he became a full professor in sociology (not: ass.prof.). There is also a slight change in his e-mail-adress

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Frank Welz

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New Members

Ulf Himmelstrand

Writes about his fields of interest in his homepage: "Having been active in teaching sociology and in carrying out sociological research for more than 40 years, during periods when different theoretical approaches were dominant, either after each other successively, or simultaneously in competition with each other, I have inevitably become concerned with the relationships between such different theoretical approaches: various versions of structural functionalism, symbolic interactionism or marxising mode-of-production types of analysis, and various normative models of governance vs. neo-liberal models of the market and rational choice. The extent to which such approaches actually are complementary rather than competing and 'incompatible' with each other is a major theoretical concern of mine. If these approaches are focusing on different objects of knowledge rather than offering competing interpretations of the 'same' objects, then we must resolve the question how to manage the interlocking of such approaches in order to attain a more comprehensive if not complete coverage of what sociology is all about. If they are competitive rather than complementary, then we cannot avoid even more basic philosophical and ontological questions: What

is the difference between 'scientific' and 'unscientific' approaches? What is the nature of the 'reality' that different competing approaches are claiming to cover and interpret?

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Frank Eckardt

Major interest: urban and political sociology, work in progress: „Georg Simmel and the sociology of the Eye“

Bauhaus-University Weimar, Dep. Sociology and Social History of the City, Marienstr. 5, D 99421 Weimar, Germany, phone: +49-3643-583804, Fax. +49-3643-583332; E-mail: frank.eckardt@archit.uni-weimar.de

Recent Publications

Gonzalo Catano

Emile Durkheim, Educacion y Pedagogia: Ensayos y Controversias [Education and pedagogy: Essays and Controversies] (Buenos Aires: Editorial Losada, 1998), 215 pp. Translated from the french by Ines E. Castano and Gonzalo Catano, with an introduction by Gonzalo Catano. The book contains 14 unknown works by Durkheim on educational issues.

"Los escritos de Emile Durkheim en espanol: reseña bibliografica" [Emile Durkheim in spanish: a bibliographical review], Revista Espanola de Investigaciones Sociologicas, No. 81, January-March, 1998, pp. 151-157.

Jacques Coenen-Huther

"L'Homo Sociologicus et ses variétés", in: Revue européenne des sciences sociales, Tome XXXVII, 1999, no. 113, pp. 87-102.

Lewis A. Coser

Rose Laub Coser, Soziale Rollen und soziale Strukturen, ed. and with an Introduction by Lewis A. Coser, Graz, Wien: Nausner & Nausner (= Bibliothek sozialwissenschaftlicher Emigranten, Vol. 5) 1999.

Mahmoud Dhaouadi

New Explorations into the Making of Ibn Khaldun's Umrans Mind, Kuala Lumpur: A.S. Noordeen 1997, ISBN 983-065-053-7.

Christian Fleck

"Für eine soziologische Geschichte der Soziologie", in: Österreichische Zeitschrift für Soziologie, 24. 1999 (2): 52-65.

Stephen Kalberg

"Max Weber's Critique of Recent Comparative-Historical Sociology and a Reconstruction of His Analysis of the Rise of Confucianism in China." Pp. 207-46 in Current Perspectives in Social Theory (vol. 19), edited by Jennifer Lehmann. Stamford, CT: JAI Press, 1999.

Maarten Menzel

Editor Special issue on "Scientific expertise and political accountability" (with Mark Rutgers), Science and Public Policy, 26. 1999 (3), 145-216, including inter alia: "Scientific expertise and public policy: re-

solving paradoxes?" (with M. R. Rutgers) and "Think tanks, policy-making, and a Dutch advisory council".

Guest editor "Environment and the post-modern society", Innovation: The European Journal of Social Sciences, 12. 1999 (2), 127-272, inter alia: "The environment in new social perspective" and "'Climate' for social assessment: Experts, uncertainty and policy development".

Sylvia T. Wargon

"Demography in Canada. Looking Backward, Looking Forward" in: Canadian Studies in Population, 25 (2), 1998, pp.199-228.

News and Notes

Frank J. Weed

has an inquiry which perhaps some RCHS member could answer. He wishes to know if historians or sociologists have studied industrial sociology departments like the ones found at the Ford Motor Company and Colorado Fuel and Iron Company in the early part of this century. He is also interested in finding more companies that had "sociology departments".

Frank J. Weed, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Box 19599, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas 76019, USA

Mahmoud Dhaouadi

is presently working on sociobiology and Ibn Khaldun's concept of *Al Assabiyya* (group feeling)

La Revue d'histoire des sciences humaines

Le premier numéro de la Revue d'histoire des sciences humaines paraîtra en octobre 1999. La revue est éditée par les Presses Universitaires du Septentrion, elle sera vendue par abonnements mais également diffusée dans les librairies universitaires. Il s'agit d'une revue à comité de rédaction qui respectera les règles d'évaluation en vigueur dans la communauté scientifique internationale. Elle publiera du reste en français ou en anglais.

Trois raisons ont motivé la création de cette nouvelle revue.

La première réside dans la volonté d'offrir un lieu de dialogue et de confrontation permanents à des recherches qui se développent de plus en plus. Ainsi pourrions-nous construire progressivement une vision d'ensemble d'un domaine qui n'est aujourd'hui que partiellement exploré. Certes, nous connaissons bien, parfois très bien, certains aspects et certaines périodes de l'histoire de l'anthropologie, de l'économie, de la géographie, de la psychologie, de la sociologie, etc. Toutefois, d'une part ces parties de l'histoire des disciplines ne forment pas un tout, d'autre part et surtout ces histoires sont précisément encore trop strictement disciplinaires. L'autonomisation complète des cursus universitaire en sciences humaines est chose récente (elle a moins d'un demi-siècle). Parce que les historiens sont très souvent aussi des praticiens des disciplines, ils ne parviennent pas toujours à s'émanciper de ce cadre généralement inadéquat. La rencontre en un même lieu de ces différents aspects d'une même histoire pourra ainsi – espérons-nous – permettre d'apprécier davantage les influences et de dessiner peu à peu les cadres généraux d'une périodisation.

Précisons que cette périodisation à construire comportera des bornes historiques, même si ces dernières seront nécessairement approximatives. Les sciences humaines se développent surtout, en tant que telles, à partir du XVIII^{ème} siècle. C'est donc à cette période moderne que nous consacre-

rons en priorité nos efforts. Cependant, en tant que manifestation du développement de la civilisation européenne, les sciences humaines font partie d'un ensemble culturel qui plonge ses racines dans la Renaissance et parfois même au-delà. Bien des représentations sociales, des traits de mentalité collective, perdurent en effet – peut-être même jusqu'à nos jours – depuis ces époques lointaines. Mais nous savons aussi que les phénomènes culturels ne résistent à l'usure du temps et surtout aux changements sociaux que s'ils peuvent y renouveler leurs raisons d'être. De même que la mémoire collective est une perpétuelle reconstruction à partir du présent, toute survivance culturelle implique une réappropriation qui est nécessairement, tout ou partie, une transformation. Par conséquent, nous encourageons des travaux portant sur des auteurs et des idées fort anciens à condition qu'ils ne soient pas constitués par une simple érudition historique, mais également en mesure d'éclairer le réinvestissement de ces héritages par les acteurs de la période moderne.

Ensuite, en fondant cette revue, nous prenons acte du fait que les chercheurs sont de plus en plus nombreux à pratiquer cet exercice historique de façon « professionnelle ». Entendons par là que l'histoire des sciences humaines n'est pas seulement pour eux une écriture commémorative, destinée à célébrer – le plus souvent à l'occasion d'un anniversaire, parfois à des fins pédagogiques – le travail des « fondateurs », « précurseurs » et autres « pionniers » des disciplines actuelles. Il s'agit désormais de se tourner vers l'histoire non pour reconstruire le sens à travers le filtre des interrogations, débats et combats d'aujourd'hui, mais pour tenter d'en comprendre le déroulement et l'évolution tels qu'ils se sont produits, dans les limites évidentes d'une part de l'état des traces qui subsistent du passé, d'autre part de notre capacité à relativiser nos manières actuelles de penser. En effet, l'histoire de la connaissance – se prétendit-elle scientifique – n'est pas seulement et sans doute pas principalement une histoire de découvertes, d'inventions, de progrès et donc d'erreurs. C'est surtout une histoire de procédés de connaissance reposant sur des certitudes et des présupposés plus ou moins conscients, fréquemment cimentés par des « visions du monde » collectives. Quel que soit l'état des connaissances et des instruments de connaissance dont disposaient en 1800 – par exemple – ceux qui s'intéressaient aux sciences humaines (qu'ils parlent alors de « Physique sociale » ou d'« Histoire naturelle de l'homme »), ils n'exerçaient pas leur réflexion de la même façon qu'aujourd'hui, ils ne percevaient pas exactement les choses et les relations entre les choses, les êtres et les relations entre les êtres, de la même façon qu'aujourd'hui. Animés de croyances religieuses ou laïques, participant à des débats et des combats politiques alors cruciaux, ils ne définissaient pas et ne pratiquaient leur « métier » de la même façon qu'aujourd'hui. Par ailleurs, la sociologie des sciences nous a appris

depuis près d'un demi-siècle à ne pas considérer les textes canoniques des auteurs consacrés comme la nécessaire quintessence de leur époque. Elle nous a conduit à observer avec autant d'égards les auteurs réputés secondaires, les querelles et les concurrences oubliées, les mécanismes de reconnaissance académique et de domination institutionnelle. C'est donc aussi parce qu'ils ont intégré tout cela dans leur façon de travailler que les chercheurs en histoire des sciences humaines ont besoin aujourd'hui de l'irremplaçable outil professionnel que constitue une revue spécialisée.

Enfin, troisième raison : parce qu'il n'existe pas en Europe continentale de revue d'histoire des sciences humaines. Les revues générales ou spécialisées qui s'intéressent occasionnellement à cette histoire ne suffisent pas à absorber la production de toutes celles et ceux qui ont fait de ce domaine de connaissances un objet privilégié sinon exclusif de leurs recherches. Par ailleurs, les revues anglo-saxonnes offrent peu de place à l'histoire des développements français, italiens, allemands, espagnols, belges, suisses, etc., des sciences humaines. Or, ni les frontières linguistiques ni les spécificités des traditions nationales ne doivent nous dissimuler la perméabilité des frontières intellectuelles et l'intérêt primordial des comparaisons européennes voire internationales.

L'ambition étant tracée, reste à préciser la méthode. Celle-ci peut se résumer en deux mots : rigueur et ouverture, que déclineront quatre rubriques. Rigueur tout d'abord, car un domaine qui se construit a besoin de matériaux solides. La publication de recherches historiques originales et méthodiques, éclairant un objet précis en un temps et un lieu déterminés, sera bien entendu une priorité de la revue : ce seront les Articles. De la même façon, la critique des travaux de cette nature est un exercice scientifique indispensable qui doit être développé en toute indépendance : ce sera la rubrique Livres. Ouverture ensuite, car l'érudition seule n'intéresserait rapidement que le public étroit des historiens professionnels et découragerait toutes celles et ceux qui, dans le cadre de leurs recherches et surtout de leurs enseignements, sont amenés tôt ou tard à s'intéresser à l'histoire. Les historiens des sciences se plaignent parfois de la faible reconnaissance de leurs travaux par les praticiens et les enseignants, mais savent-ils se faire connaître ? Pour faciliter ce dialogue avec le présent, la revue fera deux efforts originaux. D'une part elle publiera des Documents mettant à la portée de tous des textes (articles, cours, conférences, correspondances, etc., jugés particulièrement éclairants) sinon totalement inédits du moins difficilement accessibles. D'autre part elle s'efforcera de thématiser une large partie des contributions dans le cadre de Dossiers, proposant ainsi une compréhension historique plus complète sur des questions scientifiques qui continuent à se poser de nos jours.

Lieu de rencontres et de débats organisés par une équipe qui ne se réclame d'aucun parti théorique ou méthodologique exclusif, la revue est ouverte à tous et examinera systématiquement les contributions qui lui sont proposées (demandez les

conditions de publications au secrétariat de rédaction).

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4. les articles doivent être remis en trois exemplaires, accompagnés d'une disquette PC ou Mac. Ils seront mis en lecture au sein des différents comités de la revue et, le cas échéant, soumis à l'avis d'experts extérieurs.

5. les articles doivent être accompagnés de résumés d'une dizaine de lignes, en français et en anglais.

6. les articles doivent indiquer en tête l'adresse postale et électronique de l'auteur.

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8. dans le corps du texte comme dans les notes de bas de page, les références doivent figurer sous la forme de renvois à une bibliographie finale, comportant entre parenthèse le nom de l'auteur, l'année et le(s) numéro(s) de page(s). Par exemple : (Halbwachs, 1930, 78-79).

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Dues Information

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During the time of Christian Fleck's stay in the United States he will accept US cheques for the RCHS membership dues.

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