

Contents

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|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------|----|
| From the Secretary | 1 | Reports on Conferences | 10 |
| RCHS Council Members | 2 | In Memoriam | 14 |
| Letter from the President | 2 | New Items | 15 |
| Mid-Term Conference Proposals | 3 | Payment Possibilities | 16 |
| Introducing the Executive Council | 5 | Membership Form | 17 |
| Conference Calls | 9 | | |

Editorial: From the Secretary

The first task of this issue is to bring to your attention the urgent need for renewal of memberships. A membership (renewal) form is attached at the back. I will send out individual reminders shortly. This issue reports on suggested mid-term conference matters. A report on the AGM will appear in the next newsletter. The proposal before the executive is to hold the mid-term conference at Marienthal. Some session offerings are included here. More will be published in the next issue of the newsletter. Comments on this conference proposal should be directed to me.

Over the last few months there have been several events which I am pleased to have to obtain reports on:

- the RC08 Session meetings at Brisbane,

- the sessions on the History of Sociology at the ASA at Chicago in 2002, and
- Jennifer Platt's retirement conference.

Other features have been inherited from Christian Fleck's excellent work.

This is the preliminary e-mail issue in part designed to get the news out fast, but also to test the waters about this form of distribution. A printed version will be mailed out over the next few weeks. Those happy to receive **only** the email version (and thus saving some costs) should please indicate this by replying to me by email! Thanks.

Those interested may still download (until the end of the year) abstracts or papers from the RC08 and other sessions at the Brisbane conference: see

http://203.94.129.73/sch_sps_sessions.asp?sc=RC08.

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The 2002-2006 RCHS Executive

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Martin Bulmer
Secretary: Charles Crothers
Council members: Martin Albrow
Stephen Kalberg
Janusz Mucha
Dick-Pels
Stephen-Turner

Letter from the President

I make no apology for raising again the subject of archives for the history of sociology. They are vital to our work, and this is an urgent issue, for our generation of those working on that history, even more so than it was for our predecessors. Much less of our intellectual activity is recorded on paper, rather than on computer disks, and the material so freely generated is probably less often carefully preserved. The computer is a wonderful tool, but the dynamic technical innovation which leads to continual improvements in computing facilities also means that records which rely on it are continually becoming outdated. (One of my sadder research experiences was to track down with triumph an archive of the early days of an organisation of sociologists, only to find that it was on 'floppy disks' which really *were* floppy - so no machine was now available on which I could read them!)

In addition, the great expansion of sociology in the 1960s now means that exceptional numbers of those who took part in it have recently retired, or are about to retire very soon - and will be thinking of vacating their offices, moving to smaller or more convenient houses, and throwing out their papers. The growth of the discipline within national systems has allowed space

for a rich variety of theories, specialisms, controversies and subgroups, while the increasing ease of international travel has meant that many individuals' careers cannot be understood without taking cross-national influences and their records into account.

So, you agree with me? That's wonderful! But what are we going to do about it? I think each of us has a responsibility to take appropriate action in our own social setting. What that action is will depend on local circumstances. However, we can all keep key papers of our own, in decent order. That means not throwing things away, and printing a copy of what's on our computer for the filing cabinet before deleting the computer file. We can also urge colleagues, especially those about to move or retire, to do the same, and perhaps offer them our help in making decisions helpful to the future historian. I have argued elsewhere that, as sociologists, we need to pay more attention in our historical work to ordinary sociologists, and to the social structures in which they participate. A history of sociology which was only the history of its outstanding individual figures would not even allow us to understand them and their work. We are not all Max

Weber but, despite Weber's importance, sociology has not been stationary since his time. Besides the records held by individuals, the offices of university departments

can be the repository of many papers of institutional relevance, and those in charge may have no reason to be interested in a more distant future than the one of daily concern for administrative purposes. Teaching materials have been neglected in existing archives, despite their significance for understanding how issues have been defined and what has been taken for granted or treated as important, and many of those may be kept in departmental offices. We can all check our departmental policy.

If papers are to be kept, where? The answer may be an institutional archive, probably in the university library. There a 'modern' librarian may be primarily concerned with undergraduates, and think that the

Internet is the answer to all her financial problems. If there is, formally or informally, a national centre for the archives of the social sciences, that may be the suitable recipient of at least some papers, and can probably provide valuable advice; if there is not, maybe steps can be taken to encourage creation of one? Those are other arenas in which we may press for policies to meet historical needs. However, everything cannot be kept; decisions need to be made on priorities, and on strategies of systematic sampling from what is available. I hope that we will discuss this further in RCHS, and that we might develop guidelines to be taken back to our local situations. I urge members to write in to the newsletter with accounts of successful policies, useful funding sources, special problems, etc. so that we may all learn more about what needs to be done and what can be done.

Jennifer Platt

Mid-term Conference: Marienthal Proposal

Suggested dates:

Thursday May 20 as arrival day, 21st and 22nd as conference days and

Sunday 23rd as departing day from Marienthal (or as an additional half day opportunity).

Notes:

May 20 is a Catholic holiday in Austria and other Catholic countries, like Poland, Italy etc. The US people to whom I spoke are much in favour of late May and I think the same is true for most of the Europeans because the summer term isn't over

at this time and isn't in its final overloaded weeks.

Christian Fleck

Proposed Sessions (other suggestions may be provided in the next newsletter)

Sociological teaching and textbooks
What are the traditions of curriculum and textbooks in different national settings, and what factors have influenced these? (Such factors could range from training policy for the labour market to colonial

dependence, from the structure of international publishing to the boundaries of cross-national linguistic or religious communities.) In particular, to what extent have textbooks and curricula been national in coverage and style and, where they have not been purely national, have they been international, or perhaps followed patterns of political hegemony?

If several people are interested in working on this topic, it is hoped that we might (as for national sociological associations at the Montreal World Congress) produce a set of papers which could develop into a book or journal joint publication.

Jennifer Platt

Research funding

How has sociological research historically been funded in different settings, with what balance of state and private sources? Has available funding favoured certain topics, or certain categories of researcher? Have block grants been given to universities or external research institutions, or single-project grants to individuals? Has access to funding been easy, or confined to an elite? What have the intellectual consequences of the patterns observed been? Such topics could be addressed from the point of view of the researcher, of the funding agency, or of other bodies or the general public.

(Jennifer Platt would be interested to be involved in such a session, but would be happy if someone else volunteered to take the lead.)

Sociology and government

What has the relationship been between sociology and government in different national settings, with what

consequences for the development of sociology? Topics under this heading could be the role of sociology in state systems of education, the employment of sociologists in government departments and the production of sociological research (broadly defined to include e.g. some aspects of censuses) by government workers, the uses made by government of sociological work done outside government, general policies for the encouragement or discouragement of all or some kinds of sociological work, etc.

Irmela Gorges is prepared to organise this, but would be happy if someone else volunteered to take it over.

Jennifer A. Platt

The conceptual history of "Civil Society".

Social thought is a battlefield of concept formation, and concepts form our understanding of social realities. To borrow an example from the late Friedrich H Tenbruck: so called underdeveloped countries did not exist 50 years ago – or did they?

Concepts in social science fulfill theoretical, classificatory as well as ideological functions. That goes in particular for "civil society", an old opaque concept that became a "bat" in the debate, in particular following the realignment of the welfare states and the Soviet implosion. It seemingly today could refer to the Mafia, stamp collectors, as well as bowling clubs. "What is civil society?" is one of the more frequent titles for books and articles, in recent decades.

To Hegel it meant the public sphere at large, while it in modern discussions rather refers to

something more small scale, with visible responsibilities allowing for accountability and interpersonal links for social control, *Gemeinschaft* rather than *Gesellschaft*, to invoke Toennies's classic terminology, although a recent English translation of Toennies's work confusingly renders *Gemeinschaft* as society, and not community, while *Gesellschaft* is rendered as "civil society". Despite long debates we still don't know if civil society refers to *Gemeinschaft* or *Gesellschaft*.

In the Polish case, for instance, both magnitudes seem viable. Talking to Polish scholars, they tend to identify civil society with so called "non-governmental organizations", civil associations such as the Solidarity movement, while it to the foreign observer seems pretty clear that the local parishes of the Catholic Church for centuries substituted both civil society as well as the nation. This is a paradox since the

Catholic Church by nature and almost definition is cosmopolitan. However, in modern usage civil society does refer to something intermediary, between state and individual market society. This session welcomes contributions on the conceptual history and proper interpretation of "civil society", from Pufendorf, Early Scottish Enlightenment, to more recent interpretations, such as Edward Shils and communitarian scholars. Pufendorf does not use the very concept but creates its agenda, in the wake of the religious wars. Scottish Enlightenment thinkers speak of "commercial society" (Smith) or "polished society" (Ferguson). The rich supply of variations of the concept, some of the deliberately issued as "alternative concepts" calls for discursive clarification and contextualization.

Sven-Eliaeson

Introducing the 2002-2006 RCHS Executive: **Biographies:**

Martin Albrow is a British sociologist who has been a pioneer of the study of social and cultural aspects of globalization. His book *The Global Age* (Stanford UP 1997) won the European Amalfi prize in 1997. There he rejects the view that globalization is an irresistible one-way direction in history. Formerly professor of sociology in the University of Wales, Cardiff, and the University of Surrey Roehampton he has held visiting chairs in Cambridge and Munich Universities and in the London School of Economics. He was the Founder Editor of the Journal of the International Sociological Association, *International Sociology*

(1986-90 currently edited by Said Arjomand in Stony Brook). An Honorary Vice-President of the British Sociological Association, from 1999-2001 he was a Fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington DC researching globalization, public policy and the theory of society. He has been consultant to the Presidency of the European Union and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. He has also specialized in German social theory and published *Max Weber's Construction of Social Theory* (St. Martins 1990). Other recent books are *Do Organizations have Feelings* (Routledge 1997)

and *Sociology: the Basics* (Routledge 1999). (From SUNY website)

Martin Bulmer is professor of sociology at the University of Surrey, UK, and editor of the international journal *Ethnic And Racial Studies*. He has worked on the history of sociology for the last quarter of a century, and his books include *The Chicago School Of Sociology* (1984), (Editor) *Essays On The History Of British Sociological Research* (1985) and (Editor, With K Sklar And K Bales) *The Social Survey In Historical Perspective, 1880-1940* (1992) as well as many articles. He is currently working on aspects of the history of applied sociology in criminology and education.

H H Bruun studied political science at the University of Aarhus from 1963 to 1971. His thesis, which received the Gold Medal of the University of Aarhus, dealt with the value aspects of Max Weber's methodology, and Weber remained a central focus of interest for him. In the course of turning the thesis into a book (which was published in 1972), he spent a lot of time working on the large, but at the time pretty inaccessible, collection of Weber's letters in Merseburg in the, then, GDR, and as a result was for a time associated with the early planning of the Weber Gesamtausgabe.

However, apart from a few years in the early 1970s, his career has not been academic but diplomatic. He joined the Danish Foreign Ministry in 1971 and has been ambassador to Turkey, Norway, the UN (Geneva) and, now, since 1999, to France. Recently, he has taken up again his work on Weber: He

presented a paper at the RCHS conference in Torun in June, 2000, and is currently co-translating and co-editing the first major translation of Weber into Danish. In a year's time, he will take early retirement. He has just been appointed Honorary Professor at the Institute of Sociology, Copenhagen University, from September, 2003, which creates ideal conditions for a more complete return to academic pursuits.

Charles Crothers is Associate Professor of Sociology in the School of Social Science, Auckland University of Technology. He has published an intellectual biography of Robert K Merton and has studied the 'Columbia Tradition' and also the patternings over time of national sociologies.

Irmela Gorges studied 1963 – 1969 Sociology at the Free University Berlin, Germany, 1976 PhD and 1986 Habilitation at the Free University Berlin, 1987-1992 research fellow at the Free University Berlin, Technical University Berlin, the Science Centre Berlin, guest professorships at the Free University of Berlin, University of Hamburg and Ingenieurhochschule Mittweida, Saxon. Since 1992 professor of sociology for organisations at the Fachhochschule für Verwaltung und Rechtspflege (FHVR) Berlin, University of Applied Sciences. Main research topics and publications: History of Empirical Social Research, international comparisons on the history of new technologies (CAD), social policy and public administration.

Andreas Hess (Dipl SocSci Mercator University Duisburg, PhD Free

University Belin), Lecturer in Sociology at University College Dublin. Main interests: social and political theory, comparative sociology, American studies, Basque Studies.

Main publications: *Die politische Soziologie C. Wright Mills'*, Opladen 1995: Leske+Budrich; *American Social and Political Thought - A Concise Introduction*, Edinburgh 2000: Edinburgh UP / New York 2001: New York UP; *Concepts of Social Stratification - European and American Models*, Houndmills/New York 2001: Palgrave-Macmillan; (ed) *American Social and Political Thought - A Reader*, Edinburgh 2002: Edinburgh UP/New York 2003: New York UP. Occasional contributions to the humanities supplement of the German daily *Frankfurter Rundschau*.

Dirk Kaesler, studied at the University of Munich and the London School of Economics and Political Science and is currently since 1995 Senior Full Professor of Sociology, Institute of Sociology, University of Marburg.

Areas of Teaching and Research: Social and Political Theory, History of Sociology, Sociology of Science, Political Sociology, Ethics in the Social Sciences, Sociology of Religion, Max Weber-Research.

Recent Books:

Der politische Skandal. Zur symbolischen und dramaturgischen Qualität von Politik, 1991.
Sociological Adventures. Earle Edward Eubank's Visits with European Sociologists, 1991.
Sociology responds to Fascism, 1992. (Ed. with Stephen P. Turner)
Max Weber. Eine Einführung in Leben, Werk und Wirkung, 1995, 2nd Ed. 1998. (French Transl. 1996; Chinese Transl. 2000)
Soziologie als Berufung. Bausteine einer selbstbewußten Soziologie, 1997.

Klassiker der Soziologie. 2 vols., 1999. (Ed.), 3rd Ed. 2002.

Hauptwerke der Soziologie, 2000. (Ed. with Ludgera Vogt)

Max Weber: Schriften 1894-1922, 2002. (Ed.)

Stephen Kalberg teaches classical and contemporary sociological theory, comparative political culture, and comparative-historical sociology at Boston University. He writes on Max Weber and German and American political cultures. Recent publications include "Max Weber," in *The Blackwell Companion To Social Theory*, ed. by George Ritzer (2000) and: *Einführung in die historisch-vergleichende Soziologie Max Webers*. Westdeutsche Verlag, 2001 and 'The Modern World as a Monolithic Iron Cage? Utilizing Max Weber to Define the Internal Dynamics of the American Political Culture Today,' in *Max Weber Studies*, vol. 1, #2.

Teaching: classical and contemporary sociological theory, comparative political-cultures, comparative-historical sociology

Present project: The Cultural Foundations of Modern Citizenship.

Janusz Mucha, MA in sociology, MA in philosophy, PhD in sociology, Habilitation in sociology, all at Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland. Recently Professor for Sociology at Nicholas Copernicus University in Torun, Poland. Authored six books, including monographs on Charles H. Cooley and C. Wright Mills. Edited and co-edited more than ten books, including some in the field of history of sociology, some in the field of sociology in Central and Eastern Europe. Some of these books were published in the US.

Dick Pels is Professor of Sociology in the Department of Human Sciences at Brunel University (West London) and a Senior Research Affiliate of the Amsterdam School for Social Science Research. He was educated as a sociologist and philosopher in the Netherlands, and has held appointments at the Universities of Amsterdam, Groningen, Harvard, and Cape Town. His research is concentrated in social and political theory, the sociology of science and intellectuals, and cultural studies. *Property and Power in Social Theory. A Study in Intellectual Rivalry* (Routledge 1998) examines the historical career and current significance of these two 'master concepts' in terms of their shifting configuration of intellectual rivalry. *The Intellectual as Stranger. Studies in Spokespersonship* (Routledge 2000) discusses case studies of leftwing, rightwing, and 'crossover' intellectuals within the framework of a reflexive theory of intellectual and political spokespersonship and innovative marginality. Earlier publications have addressed issues of democratic representation (*Het democratisch verschil*, Amsterdam, 1993), the re-styling of political culture, and themes such as symmetry, reflexivity, and normativity in science and technology studies.

His current writing and research focuses on the differential timescapes of science, politics and business (*Unhastening Science*, forthcoming 2002), the performative techniques of 'everyday essentialism', and the rise of celebrity culture in politics, academia, and business. As a boat owner and sailor, he is also interested in 'waterways': the ways

in which people handle things and things handle people on and around the water. He currently teaches undergraduate modules on social theory, the sociology of knowledge, and celebrity culture.

Jennifer Platt was secretary of RCHS from 1992 to 1998. Her special interest is in the history of empirical research and of sociological institutions. Her major relevant book is *A History of Sociological Research Methods in America, 1920-1960*, and she is the author of the history of the ISA and has shortly forthcoming histories of the International Social Science Council and the British Sociological Association.

Stephen Turner is Graduate Research Professor of Philosophy at the University of South Florida. He has been Visiting Professor at Virginia Tech, Boston University, and Notre Dame, and Simon Honorary Visiting Professor at the University of Manchester, a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow and a fellow of the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences. He recently published *Brains/Practices/Relativism: Social Theory after Cognitive Science* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002) Earlier books include *The Social Theory of Practices: Tradition, Tacit Knowledge, and Presuppositions* (Oxford: Polity Press; Chicago: University of Chicago Press) and, with Regis A. Factor, 1994, *Max Weber: The Lawyer as Social Thinker* (London: Routledge), both published in 1994. His other books on Weber include *The Search for a Methodology of Social Science: Durkheim, Weber, and the Nineteenth Century*

Problem of Cause, Probability, and Action, (Dordrecht, Holland: Reidel, 1996), and, with Regis Factor, *Max Weber and the Dispute Over Reason and Value: A Study in Philosophy, Ethics, and Politics* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, Ltd 1984). He edited *The Cambridge Companion to Max*

Weber, Emile Durkheim: Sociologist and Moralist, and various other books, and has written extensively on the history of social statistics. His most recent book is *Liberal Democracy 3.0: Civil Society in an Age of Experts*, which will appear shortly with Sage.

Conferences: Calls for Papers

Social Theory 2003
International Social Theory
Consortium
Fourth Annual Conference
May 18-21, 2003
Hilton Tampa Bay/North Redington
Beach Resort

Call for Papers

The purpose of the International Social Theory Consortium and its annual conference is to organize the International Social Theory community and to provide an opportunity for interdisciplinary exchange in social theory. This call for papers is addressed to scholars, faculty, and students who work in any of the areas and traditions and social and political thought with an interest in communicating with other social theorists. As this conference is in Florida, we are especially interested in papers that deal with the theme of the conference, Social Theory in the World and Worlds of Social Theory, which is designed to focus on questions about the differences between traditions in

social theory, such as between Europe and the United States, as well as differences in conditions under which social theory is produced and consumed between different regions of the world. Conference organizers invite submission of abstracts for papers of 150 words as well as proposals for panels and sessions that address the concerns of the social theory community. The meeting is open to anyone with an interest in social theory, and in the past participants have come from programs all across the humanities, arts, and social sciences, theology, history, law, and philosophy, as well as architecture, business, and public policy. Please send abstracts or queries by January 31 to the Center for Social and Political Thought, Department of Philosophy, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida 33620, USA, to Eileen Kahl, ekahl@luna.cas.usf.edu or fax 1-813-974-5914 or submit through the consortium website at www.socialtheory.org

Reports on Conferences:

The RC08 Session meetings at Brisbane, 2002: The pleasure of overcoming tyrannical distances, or Some subjective impressions from the XV ISA World Congress of Sociology in Brisbane

After nearly two days of travel and four different flights, I finally reached the destination, Brisbane, just to discover that my suitcase had been lost somewhere along the way -- "probably in Singapore", the man in the desk for lost luggage suggested. At that very moment, when standing there in the airport, 5 o'clock in morning, feeling tired after the long journey and looking in vain for my lost belongings, I realised how far away Australia *actually* is from Europe.

A few days later, I heard the expression 'the tyranny of distance' mentioned for the first time. It was the President of the Australian Sociological Association, John Germov, who in his welcome address told us, ironically, that it was a pleasure to let us experience what every Australian sociologist has to go through whenever she or he is going to an international congress. The expression popped up several times more during the week to come, and soon I learned that it is also the title of a book on the history of Australia, written by Geoffrey Blainey, who discusses the exceptionality of the Australians by referring to their constant struggle for taming geographical distances.

For me, though, it did not take many days to discover, that once I had overcome the "tyrannical distance", as well as the jet lag, and got my luggage back (only two days delayed),

Brisbane was a lovely place to be in, with rich facilities and the best weather imaginable. The XV ISA World Congress of Sociology appeared to be a well organized meeting, offering an impressive smorgasbord of interesting panels, sessions and topics, of which the individual participant, of course, could enjoy no more than a limited number. And, speaking as a member of the Research Committee on the History of Sociology (RCHS), it was extremely stimulating to meet and be surrounded by people with similar interests in a way that you seldom are at your home institution.

Personally, I tried to follow not all, but as many as possible of the sessions organized by the RCHS, which displayed a wide-ranging mix of -- partly parallel -- sessions, covering the history of sociology in Australia and non-Western societies (sessions 1-3), empirical social research (sessions 4 and 6), the use and interpretation of the classics (5 and 7), public understanding of sociology (8), general sessions (10-12), a session for the next generation (9), as well as a special session on knowledge societies, jointly organized with the Research Committees on the Sociology of Science and Technology and the Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture..

Among my own favourites were the papers presented on the history of sociology in Australia (which were nicely and naturally kept together around its theme), the session on the next generation (where the well prepared commentators encouraged fruitful dialogues) and the special session on knowledge societies (which related history of sociology issues with

some of the major questions discussed at the Congress).

Taken together the RCHS sessions, at least for a young outsider like me (with the disciplinary background in the history of science and ideas), shows that the history of sociology is a truly dynamic and pluralistic research area, with a great potential for further

Sessions on the History of Sociology at the ASA at Chicago in 2002

The 97th Annual Meeting of the ASA was held this year in Chicago. One of ASA's youngest sections, those for the history of sociology, had organized its own part of the program but 'hist of soc' wasn't restricted to the tiny rooms where the professional historians assembled, some of the bigger events were devoted to one or the other historical aspect of the discipline too.

Obviously, during the Presidential Plenary, when the speaker asked the audience to stand up in remembrance of those sociologists who passed away during the last year, one encountered one interpretation of history. Elijah Anderson's announcement that due to an inexplicable error Lewis Coser's name was given incorrectly in the Convention Bulletin as one of the deceased relieved those who didn't get the good news through the conference's grapevine.

Another version of history got everyone who browsed through the 300 something pages thick Final Program during one of the rare breaks or while attending a session which emerged as boring. In it you could find not only a complete list of all ASA presidents, officers, editors,

expansion and development. The welcoming and open attitude of the research group was visible in a lot of different ways, not least in the form of a relaxed and enjoyable research dinner, which makes up still another reason to look forward to the next RCHS meeting.

Per Wisselgren

and award recipients of the past 97 years, but also about the meeting sites of the Annual Conferences. Looking at these lists one could get the impression that ASA is very much history-conscious.

Along these lines of historical understanding the congress offered more than one session dedicated to great sociologists of the past, some of them well attended. ASA's incoming president, Michael Burawoy, chaired a session in memory of Pierre Bourdieu, with Harrison White and Craig Calhoun on the panel. Frankly, you didn't get anything new about Bourdieu in the course of the session. More informative and moving was another commemoration session, for Peter Blau, where former students and colleagues gave vivid portraits. Sad and embarrassing for an Austrian to hear that this prolific sociologists who was born in Vienna and had been kicked out of his native city by the Nazis in 1938 did not overcome this trauma during his whole life. (I wasn't able to go to a series of sessions organized by another former Columbia sociologist who also was born in Central Europe and did have to leave it during his early years: Anthony Oberschall organized a session on genocide.)

Devotees of Talcott Parsons contributed a session on "The

Actuality of Talcott Parsons at His Centennial". Speakers were Uta Gerhardt, Neil Smelser, Jeffrey Alexander, and Edward Tiryakian, whereas admirers of another classics labeled their session "The Durkheimian Tradition in Sociological Research" with papers on suicide, women, moral education, individuality in the age of globalism, where the speakers proposed the relevance of Durkheimian theoretical framework for specific research issues. Remarkably this time the theory section did not offer historical contributions.

The organizers offered a dozen of tours exploring Chicago and naturally some of them were dedicated to the tradition of the Chicago School: "From the Gold Coast to the Taxi Dance Hall" and "Hull House Museum", both were sold out when I arrived at the spot. The eighty something who booked in advance must have nice trips. In addition a more scholarly session was held on Jane Addams, reviewing her "Democracy and Social Ethics", with papers by Mary Jo Deegan, Jill Niebrugge-Brantley and Shulamit Reinharz.

Finally, the History of Sociology section and its sessions. Again, I wasn't able to attend all of them, partly because I was on the program somewhere else, but partly too because the topics were highly specific. The min-conference's title however was promising: "The Impact of American Sociology around the World". Part I assembled papers on the influence of U.S. sociology on Polish sociology by Helena Znaniecka Lopatka, Deegan on American women at the Hague, another Jane Addams paper, this

time by Connie D. Frey, winner of one of the innumerable prizes awarded during this conference, and one more paper on the Chicago school, by Marlene Shore. The second part of the mini-conference presented fine grained papers on small topics, for instance Anthony Blasi spoke about sociology at Notre Dame University, Patricia Madoo Lengermann and Jill Niebrugge analyzed "The Caribbean Connection" and Mike Keen presented his, written with Janusz Mucha, paper on "Sociology in Central and Eastern European in the 1990s." Finally a group of section members and officers came together for a panel "Documenting the Historical Role of American Sociology around the World after 100 Years: Research Strategies, Resources, and Fundamental Questions".

All in all, I fear, the topic of the mini-conference promised too much. Therefore all these fine papers and discussions have been overshadowed by this too large thematic umbrella. Given the fact that during four and a half day nearly 600 different sessions were held one could agree with the well-known lamentation about the fragmentation of our discipline. With regard to the contributions from the perspective of history of sociology and about the past of the discipline it seemed to me that the number of history aficionados is small, and ASA's hist of soc section lacks the critical mass necessary to improve its discourse and exchanges.

For the 2006 Annual Meeting, the 100th of this kind of coming together, one could hear first debates about potential contributions from historians of sociology. Let's hope

that at least then enough historians of sociology will show up and have

to say something which might interest ordinary sociologists too.

Christian Fleck

History and Practice of Sociology and Social Research - a conference to mark the retirement of Jennifer Platt

Honouring the comprehensive research work of *Jennifer Platt*, president of the RCHS 08, a conference took place on September 27th and 28th, 2002, at the time of her retirement from her professorship at the University of Sussex, Falmer, UK, where she worked during the last 38 years. 16 invited speakers, colleagues of international reputation emphasized the scope of her research fields and research cooperation. *Peter Wagner, European University Institute, Florence, Italy*, presented an overview on the impact of the political development of western democracies on sociology and social research since the 19th century. *Martin Bulmer, University of Surrey, UK*, discussed differences of social research in the UK and the USA during the 20th century using the example of Jennifer's book 'A history of sociological research methods in America 1920-1960' (1996). *Jean-Michel Chapoulie, Université de Paris, France*, started with the same book as an example for the relevance of his plea for a history of social sciences in which interactions between the authors, their forerunners and their rivals should serve as a 'framework for the history of social sciences'. *Steven Turner, University of South Florida*, added how useful empirical methods of social research were for democratic politics in the USA when, for example in the 1930s and 40s, the need for social reforms became visible through

the method of 'mapping' the distribution of social problems.

While these papers underlined Jennifer's interest in international comparative research in the development of methods, the paper of *Catherine Hakim, London School of Economics and Political Science*, discussed the difficulties in conducting international comparative research on the issue of unemployment of women. The theme was taken up also by *Rosemary Crompton, City University*, presenting her research on women's careers and, thereby, sharing Jennifer's interest in the 'use of life histories'. *Frank Bechhofer, Edinburgh University*, added the third paper on labour-market issues and methods of social research discussing 'Qualitative data and the affluent worker study'.

The 'Swedish impact' on Jennifer's conference came, at first in combination with women's studies, from *Stina Lyon, South Bank University*, who juxtaposed the caring, conservative and the individualistic modern role of women at the example of Alva Myrdal's and Viola Klein's joint book on 'Women's Two Roles: Home and Work' (1968). The other 'Swedish' participant, *Per Wisselgreen, Swedish Institute for Studies in Education and Research*, explained the system of private funding in Sweden during the 20th century. He represented, at the same time, one of the two excellent former students of Jennifer taking part in the conference. The second student, *Claire Donovan, Nuffield College*, reported on the results of her dissertation, in which she found that

only the conservatives had intervened in the politics of the English Funding Associations. This result was supported by the first supervisor of her thesis, *Ted Tapper, University of Sussex*, in his paper on the politics of research assessment in England.

Two presentations went into the history and methods of psychology. *Sandy Lovie, Liverpool University*, confronted the audience with two studies on traumatic avoidance learning in dogs conducted in 1953. *Trudy Dehue, University of Groningen*, discussed the historical and political assumptions of a social experiment with heroin.

The history of social research in the German speaking European countries was taken up in two other papers. Nazi-Austria and its refugees to the USA is one of the main research fields of *Christian Fleck, University of Graz*. He filtered out sociologists who stayed in Austria during the Nazi Regime pointing out that mostly the older social scientists tended to stay because they were not able to continue their career abroad. *Irmela Gorges, Fachhochschule für Verwaltung und Rechtspflege Berlin*, wanted to draw attention to a wide yet undisclosed research field, the history of social

research in the former German Democratic Republic 1949 -1990.

Finally, a most interesting overview on the development of recording technologies helping social researchers to maintain their data and which were used between 1920 to 2000 was presented by *Ray Lee, Royal Holloway, University of London*. Despite the disparity in themes, the underlying red thread on the history of social research in Europe and the USA made the audience listen with great pleasure in the cool Meeting House of the University of Sussex comforted by the kind hospitality of *John Holmwood* and his colleagues, who had organised Jennifer's conference.

A contributed paper by Charles Crothers recounted some interesting episodes in the development of social science research technique. These episodes include Sir Thomas More and simulations, Napoleon and macro-societal engineering, the deployment of social research in successive redrawings of the map of Europe, Engels's portrait of urban Manchester, wartime 'British' social research and Mao's apparent invention of focus-groups.

Irmela Gorges, FHVR-Berlin, Germany

In Memoriam

Dr. Luiz Costa Pinto died November 1 in Canada. He is buried in Brazil, his original country. Pinto was an RCHS member and on the ISA executive Council in the 1950s.

John Smith and Elton Mayo

Professor John H. Smith, a British sociologist who died in May, was not much known among specialists in the history of sociology, but in his

later career he made important contributions to one corner of that field. He was an industrial sociologist, and a member of the post-war cohort of students at the London School of Economics who led the growth of British sociology in the 1960s. In his earlier career there were very active contacts between American and British industrial sociologists, as funding

and interest was concentrated on postwar industrial reconstruction, and that probably led to his developing work on Elton Mayo, the Australian who led the famous Hawthorne study of industrial relations. He became intimately familiar with Mayo's archives, and wrote a number of papers on him, listed below, which are significant as part of the history of one of the less-studied areas in the history of sociology; we would have a fuller history of our discipline if there were

more such work on specialist areas of empirical sociology. His publications included:

'Elton Mayo revisited', *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, 1968.

'The significance of Elton Mayo'. Introduction to 5th edition of Mayo, *The Social Problems of an Industrial Civilisation*, 1975.

'The three faces of Elton Mayo', *Times Higher Educational Supplement*, December 1980.

Jennifer Platt

News Items:

Report on RC08 in The Sociologische Gids

M. Mentzel (who was a board member of the Dutch Sociological Association and representative in the ISA council recently reported on the activities of the ISA in the most important Netherlands sociology journal.

In this short article he underlined the scholarly work of research committee RC08 and mentioned the main chapters in the book. He mentioned the long track from Idea, - conference - book (and he mentioned his participation in the conference). Moreover he underlined the importance of the chapter on Archives and mentioned for instance the activities of Jennifer Platt. It is hoped that some students or scholars in Holland who are oriented on these (mostly famous) sociologists will contact the writers/authors of the chapters or will remember their names.

M Mentzel

Recent Publications: Maarten Mentzel,

Review of Mucha, J., D. Kaesler and W. Winclawski (eds.), *Mirrors and Windows: Essays in the history of sociology*, (Nicholas Copernicus University Press) Torun 2001, in: *Sociologische Gids*, 49 (2002) 3, pp. 332-333 (in Dutch)

The Mead Project: Foundational Documents in Sociological Social Psychology

(<http://spartan.ac.brocku.ca/%7EElward>) Compiled and created by Lloyd Gordon Ward and Robert Throop at the Brock University Department of Sociology in Canada, the Mead Project contains an array of primary documents by George Herbert Mead and his contemporaries.

The stated goal of the project is to revitalize research on Mead's work and to facilitate access to his publications by bringing together many key documents in one readily accessible location. Along with a collection of seminal papers and articles written by Mead from 1881 to 1938, the site also contains a variety of supplementary scholarship produced by William James and John Dewey. Almost all

of the documents are publicly available, but several will require users to register with the Project, which is free.

(Item sent in by *Martin Bulmer*: from the "Scout Report")

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www.ucm.es/info/isa/formisa.htm.

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