



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

# Newsletter

JUNE 2003

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### *Editorial: From the Secretary*

The contents of this newsletter highlight the Marienthal Conference for which Christian Fleck has been developing an exciting infrastructure. A short article draws attention to the history of sociology work advanced by Robert K. Merton, and an appreciation of the work of Lopata-Znaniiecki is also presented. There is a major crossover in work between the history of sociology and theoretical sociology, and the opening round in what is hoped will be an ongoing series is provided by Donald Levine.

The need for some to renew their memberships continues, although I have mailed or emailed those in arrears. Membership in the section is important as without we do not attract ISA subsidy. A membership (renewal) form is attached at the back.

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### Marienthal Conference: first call for papers

Research Committee History of  
Sociology, International Sociological  
Association: Interim Conference  
2004

Time: Thursday, May 20 to Sunday  
May 23

Conference Location: Gramatneusiedl -  
Marienthal (20 kilometers outside of  
Vienna)

Hotel: Seminarhotel Velm  
[http://www.eco-  
tour.org/company/cnr\\_at\\_189en.html](http://www.eco-tour.org/company/cnr_at_189en.html)

B&B per person EUR 36,80 per night  
and breakfast.

**Schedule:**

Thursday May 20 (Catholic holiday in  
Austria) arrival by plane, train or car.  
Bus service from Vienna International  
Airport by advanced reservation, or by  
local trains from Vienna's South Station

Opening meeting in the evening  
Visit of the exhibition "Marienthal Social  
and historical contexts of the classical  
study"  
Reception by the Mayor of  
Gramatneusiedl

Friday May 21 and Saturday May 22:  
scientific program: Plenary and parallel  
sessions morning and afternoon

Friday evening: Sightseeing of the  
remains of the community and factory of  
Marienthal

Sunday May 23, departure and  
sightseeing tour through Vienna "Places  
of Political and cultural historical  
significance"

*Call for papers and offers to organise  
sessions:*

The following sessions have already  
been suggested and offers of papers for  
these should be sent to the proposer.  
Offers for organising further sessions  
should be made to the RCHS Secretary:  
[Charles.Crothers@aut.ac.nz](mailto:Charles.Crothers@aut.ac.nz)

*General Session:*

As always papers may be offered  
irrespective of any particular streams.  
[Charles.Crothers@aut.ac.nz](mailto:Charles.Crothers@aut.ac.nz)

*Session: History of Sociology in Austria*  
According to the tradition of RCHS one  
session should be devoted to papers  
dealing with the history of sociology in  
Austria

*Christian Fleck*  
[christian.fleck@uni-graz.at](mailto:christian.fleck@uni-graz.at)

*Proposed Session: Community studies  
in historical perspective*

"Marienthal" is just one example of a  
sociological investigation which took  
place at a particular community.  
Scholars who are doing research on  
similar sites like Boston's North End  
a.k.a. Whyte's Cornerville; Muncie, Ind.  
(a.k.a. Lynds' Middletown);  
Newburyport, Massachusetts (a.k.a.  
Warner's Yankee City), Vidich's Small  
Town in Mass Society etc. are invited to  
contribute papers dealing with the  
historical development of these  
communities after the sociologists left  
the field. In addition papers on concepts  
as community, community study, are  
welcomed too.

*Christian Fleck*  
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*Proposed Session: Public  
Understanding of the Social Sciences*

The social sciences, sociology in  
particular, emerged historically as the  
result of three distinct bundles of  
influences: The demand for data,  
analysis, and expertise from the welfare  
state and other public agencies and as a  
by-product of social movements,  
including those from intellectuals as  
spokesperson for the underprivileged.  
Aside, a pure  
academic, scholarly interest in social  
and historical processes played a crucial  
role in developing the discourse of  
sociology. However, the tension  
between practical oriented applied  
sociology and theory driven autonomous  
discourses characterized the history of  
the social sciences during the last two  
centuries. Concurrently sociology

became more and more methodological sophisticated, similar to any other scientific discipline, and lost therefore to a certain degree ability to speak to ordinary people and to be understood by citizens. At the outset sociology was the quintessential public discipline but according to some authors this relationship became weaker and weaker during the 20th century. Nowadays sociology speaks mainly to itself, which is still true in those cases where different camps of social scientists fight each other in public making use of more or less sociologically produced data. In doing so sociologists often use a language not understandable to non-members of their 'tribe.' One could speak about a kind of vulgarisation of sociology in the wider audiences and of strengthening 'scientificity' inside the walls of sociological departments.

*Christian Fleck*

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*Proposed Session: Authors meets the Critics:*

A Selection of recent writings in the History of Sociology will be chosen around which a debate will be staged between invited critics and the author, together with the conference participants.

*Charles Crothers*

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*Proposed Session: 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*

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*Proposed Session: 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.)

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*Proposed Session: 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.

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*Proposed Session: The conceptual history of "Civil Society".*

Social thought is a battlefield of concept formation, and concepts form our understanding of social realities. 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.

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 discussion 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*

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*Proposed Session: The impact of the classics on the discipline of sociology in non-western countries*

Papers of this session should discuss the impact of the 'classic' sociologists from Europe and the US on the development of the discipline sociology in any other country with a native language that is not German, English or French. The papers may reach from Marx, Max Weber, Durkheim to Parsons or other 'classics'. Preferably the impact of those sociologists should be discussed who have written their influential oeuvres up to the end of World War II. The papers can focus on the reception of sociological ideas in nations or regions like the eastern part of Europe but also Spain or Portugal, Asia, Africa or South America. They may deal with any aspect of the transfer of ideas, like the impact on the development of theories, methods, the interpretation of sociological terms or the application of sociological knowledge in a respective country

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## *Letter from the President*

In the last few weeks I have attended a conference in France on the history of American and British sociology, refereed for an English-language journal an article on Durkheim which cited only English translations of his work, read a book in English written mainly by native speakers of German, and (as book review editor) edited reviews in English by colleagues from other language backgrounds. This has made me reflect about the significance of language in our work.

In the current international situation, I am impressed by the heroic achievements of many colleagues with other first languages who use English - and less impressed by the efforts of the Anglophone world to cope with their languages. The central ISA holds the principle of using three official languages, but only English is used in most of its business, while for many sociologists none of the three is a first language. In some international survey programmes comparability is ensured by standardising to a questionnaire in English. It is essential for international communication that shared languages be found, but few of us are really as capable in another language as in our own. In these circumstances, can communication be adequate? Can texts in a foreign language be adequately understood?

Some purist folksong clubs have a rule that, to achieve authenticity, singers should sing only songs from their own folk tradition. One can imagine an equivalent sociological rule, under which for instance only native speakers of German would be allowed to write on Weber. (This would raise interesting problems in dealing with the work of migrants; who would be allowed to discuss the work of Sorokin, Lazarsfeld or Dahrendorf in English, of Gurvitch in French or Germani in

Spanish?) A weaker version of this principle would be that for research purposes texts must be used in their language of origin, so that there was only one stage of mediated transmission, not two. This has obvious attractions - but would it not be a serious loss if Mexicans or Swedes could not use Durkheim, even in an excellent translation?

As sociology becomes more global the problems increase. When it really consisted essentially of a few Europeans speaking to each other, when colonial intellectuals related primarily to their colonising powers, and then when US hegemony and funding meant that a high proportion of all sociologists had experience in the US as students or visitors, the problems were relatively simple as intellectual community was created by interaction within a limited range of social diversity. But now, when Japan, China, Russia and many smaller linguistic communities participate in the international arena, the difficulty of sharing concerns across more and wider boundaries becomes greater. In the history of sociology this can mean that what we find interesting in the sociologies of other nations, even those close to us, is from their point of view idiosyncratic; why, for instance, is there now so much interest in France in the Chicago School and symbolic interactionism? (Does this mean the same in the French context as it does in the American one?) Why was British sociology in the 1970s so infatuated with Althusser? Such phenomena are both influenced by the availability of translations, and lead to the creation of more to meet market demand, which then add to the skewed impression of what is important in the place of origin of the work translated. Should we perhaps as historians be studying only whole national sociologies, rather than

detaching authors, schools or subtopics from their social contexts? Probably not, but I would certainly argue that the tradition of context-free discussion of 'theory' is harmful to adequate historical understanding and, although foreign-language ability is important, it is not alone sufficient. Against that, we may set the point that interesting new developments sometimes arise from

approaching historic contributions with new questions, and placing them in a context derived from other traditions; even perverse originality can improve on conservative authenticity. Historical study of patterns of international intellectual relations will be worthwhile.

*Jennifer Platt*

### *News Items:*

**Websites of Interest to Members:** a key Weber website...

<http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk/news/weber.html>

### **Books: Members Comment on their recent work**

TALCOTT PARSONS - AN INTELLECTUAL BIOGRAPHY. Cambridge University Press 300 pages. Uta Gerhardt University of Heidelberg

Originally, my book had the title: IN DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY: THE SCHOLARSHIP AND POLITICS OF TALCOTT PARSONS: FOUR CHAPTERS IN AN INTELLECTUAL BIOGRAPHY. You can see what the publisher did: They chose a shorter title. But the original title describes quite correctly what the book is about.

I wanted to weld together Parsons's scholarship in the time period from the 1930s to the 1960s with his politics. In the 1930s, his politics had to do with Nazism in Germany when his major scholarly work was THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIAL ACTION (Chapter 1). In the 1940s, first half (Chapter 2), he was concerned with National Socialism also as a topic of sociological analysis. Never in his entire life would he be so outspoken in regard to the politics of democracy as he was in the early 1940s

when the Nazi regime was the target. He actively participated in discussions highly relevant for the transformation of Germany after World War II - for which I cite interesting documents. Chapter III deals with the second half of the 1940s when he was opposed to the atom bomb as well as its sequelae in international politics. The chapter deals with how this is the background story to THE SOCIAL SYSTEM. Last but not least, Chapter 4 deals with the seminal innovations in social theory which Parsons accomplished in the 1960s. He revised his entire thinking, and a new theory emerged which, according to him, fitted the growth of modernization of modern society in the 1960s. The chapter ends on how he dealt with the Civil-Rights problems, university unrest, and the Vietnam war - the political issue of the 1960s.

*New Outlook on The Determinants of Ibn Khaldun's Umran Mind.* April 2003 by Le Centre de Publication Universitaire, Tunis, pp.268.

I am pleased to inform you of the publication of my new book in Arabic on Ibn Khaldun (IK) 'social science thought whose title is:' It was published The book consists of five chapters: 1- IK the founding father of Eastern sociology. 2- the role of IK personality traits and his civilizational context in the making of his pioneering social science thought. 3- the place of human nature in IK's thinking. 4- the question of objectivity/subjectivity in IK and Western thinkers' social science thought. 5- the concept of social change in IK and Western classical sociologists' social science thought. The last four chapters are particularly meant to make their own contributions

to the renewal of IK's social science thought. Each one of them explores something new which has hardly been raised and explored before about the original social science thought of the author of the Muqaddimah. The book is in full agreement with the great prevailing thought trend that has focused on IK's social science thought since the second half of the twentieth century. In this period, the Arab Muslim world as well as the West have witnessed more intellectual writings, debates, congresses, etc...about IK's social science thought than ever before, since Ibn Khaldun wrote his Muqaddimah in the fourteenth century.

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#### **Recent Publications of Members: E. Halas:**

E. Halas (ed.), *Symbols, Power and Politics*, Frankfurt am Main 2002, Peter Lang Verlag

E. Halas (ed.), *Europa: zbliżenia, kontrowersje, perspektywy*, Lublin 2002, Towarzystwo Naukowe Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego

E. Halas, *Symbolic Politics of Public Time and Collective Memory. The Polish Case*, "European Review", 2002, No 1, pp. 115-129.

E. Halas, *Symbolism and Social Phenomena. Toward the Integration of Past and Current Theoretical Approaches*, "European Journal of Social Theory" No 5(3), 2002, pp. 351-366.

E. Halas, *Ethical Dilemmas of „Verstehen” in Sociology. Theodore Abel's Encounter with Nazism*, „Polish Sociological Review”, 2(138), 2002, pp. 173-187.

E. Halas, *Public Symbols and Polish Identity, Change and Ambiguity of Meanings in State Holidays Calendar of the Third Republic of Poland*, in: E. Halas (ed.), *Symbols, Power and Politics*, Frankfurt am Main 2002, Peter Lang Verlag, pp. 81-100.

Th. Abel, *The Columbia Circle of Scholars. Selections from the Journal (1930-1957)*. Edited and introduced by Elzbieta Halas, Frankfurt am Main 2001, Peter Lang Verlag

#### **Brief Articles: Historians of Sociology**

*Robert K Merton and the History of Sociology*

Charles Crothers

Although the late Robert Merton (henceforth RKM) made a strategic intervention in the development of the history of sociology, he himself made relatively few particular contributions to our area of speciality, and he is not

generally recognised as an historian of sociology. Nevertheless, his forays in this area had a heavy impact which this brief article seeks to show.

In the first edition (1949) of his *Social Theory and Social Structure (STSS)* RKM was endeavouring to advance an image of how sociology might comport itself in terms of building theory along more properly scientific (and not narrowly empiricist) lines. The major plank in this strategy, of course, was his doctrine of 'theories of the middle range', but he also wished to analytically separate the tasks of work on the history and on the systematics of sociological theory, which he saw as confusingly fused in the then-contemporary enterprise of sociology.

"The assumption underlying the opening chapters of this book is to the contrary: although the history and the systematics of sociological theory should both be of concern in training sociologists, this is no reason for merging and confusing the two. Systematic theory..represents the highly selective accumulation of those small parts of earlier theory which have thus far survived the tests of empirical research. But the history of theory includes also the far greater mass of conceptions which fell to bits when confronted with empirical test. It includes also the false starts, the archaic doctrines and the fruitless errors of the past. Through acquaintance with all this may be a useful adjunct to the sociologist's training, it is no substitute for training in the actual use of theory in research,. We can with profit study much of what the forefathers of sociology wrote as exercises in the conduct of intellectual inquiry, but this is quite another matter".

Having advanced this manifesto, RKM very pointedly reinforced it through pinning an apothegm from Whitehead as the masthead to his book: "A science which hesitates to forget its founders is lost". The riposte came from Gouldner along the lines of "The science without reference to its founders doesn't know from whence it came". More generally, RKM's position was generally over-

interpreted as being rather empiricist. Admittedly there is a limited ambiguity in that RKM stresses the mistaken and the plain wrong as well as what later turned out to be useful lines of development.

In his 1967 reprinted version of Part 1 of *STSS* RKM considerably expanded on this viewpoint. He argued that "...suitable recognition of the difference.." would open up the possibility for "...the writing of authentic.." and sociology-enhanced histories as opposed to histories harnessed to the defence of the presentist concerns of current debates. Such histories would "...take up such matters as the complex filiation of sociological ideas, the ways in which they developed, the connections of theory with the changing social origins and subsequent social statuses of its exponents, the interaction of theory with the changing organisation of sociology, the diffusion of theory from centers of sociological thought and its modification in the course of diffusion, and the ways in which it was influenced by changes in the environing culture and social structure". Moreover, the development of such sophistication would put the history of sociology back alongside the emerging sophistication of the histories of other areas of scientific activity.

For example, historians of science are deploying methods such as oral histories, rather than remaining fixated on 'public documents'. Moreover, RKM lambasts the standard history of sociology approach as sociologically naïve given that it is now well-recognised that there is much divergence between the ways in which scientific processes are presented as having occurred and what was actually involved. He praises the then-appearing literature of 'research chronicles' (in which again, RKM himself had had some hand).

As a conceptual contribution to assist such study RKM advanced a series of concepts to enable historians to grasp continuities and discontinuities in the historical development of sociological theory. This involved the concepts of rediscovery and pre-discovery as well as discovery. (Although many discoveries are simultaneous in that they correspond within a span of a few years, when similar (“functionally interchangeable”) discoveries are made across a longer time-period, RKM suggests that the first be termed a pre-discovery and the latter a ‘rediscovery’). RKM explores both ‘objective’ and ‘subjective’ treatments of these links: the first established through careful comparison of exact similarities through a reconstructive exercise, and the latter involving admissions by the rediscoverers that ‘their’ idea already had been uncovered, and indeed in many cases they withdrew their own claims as invalid because they had been ‘forestalled’. RKM also distinguished between anticipations and adumbrations: the former involve “..somewhat less of a resemblance [to earlier discoveries, than rediscoveries], in which the earlier formulations overlap the later ones but do not focus upon and draw out the same set of implications” and the latter “..to an even smaller resemblance in which earlier formulations ..have only dimly and vaguely approximated the subsequent ideas, with practically none of their specific implications having been drawn and followed up”. RKM poses the differential occurrence of prompt or delayed identification of rediscoveries as a topic always needing appropriate analysis of “...the conditions making for observed continuities of discontinuities in thought”.

Apart from this methodological essay, RKM assisted more generally with two further highly significant contributions in the history of sociology. Was the

inspiration of his famous lectures on the history of sociological theory which RKM taught over the period from the mid-1940s through into the late 1970s) for Lewis Coser’s definitive tome on the history of sociology. (RKM wrote the preface to this volume).

The second was his support for Paul F Lazarsfeld’s research programme of monographs on the history of social research which included work by Oberschall, etc. Alongside this were several commentaries in which he reported on current matters affecting sociology and applied sociology. During the 1970s some of Merton’s own efforts, together with those of some of his students in his Program on the Sociology of Science actually covered sociology of sociology as in his own monograph on the development of the sociology of science as an area within sociology and the work of the Coles and Zuckerman on the development of the sociologies of science and of deviance. This work merged into the more or less systematic reminiscences into which Merton was often drawn as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of some of his publications fell due and he was asked to participate in celebrations and reviews. Often these accounts are largely auto-biographical, but none the less of interest to historians of sociology: such as Merton’s historical accounts of his own work on. This is supplemented by accounts from Zuckerman and Crothers inter alia. A final intellectual strand of Merton’s work which is of interest to historians of sociology is his work was a thematic which reached back to the late-1950s but which Merton pursued particularly over his last decade of writing. This began in the form of a humanist, historical, “non-linear, divagating’ Shandean mode as in the book concerning the metaphor ‘on the Shoulders of Giants’ but also the trajectory of a range of other ideas (eg serendipity. STS, the Thomas Theorem and the Kelvin Dictum). Merton saw this

work as “..examining the enduring tensions between tradition and originality in the transmission and frown of knowledge”, or more particularly the changing trajectory of the use of a particular term.

*Relevant Merton Writings*

1949 Election Polling Forecasts and Public Images of Social Science (with Paul K. Hatt). *Public Opinion Quarterly* 13, 185-222.

1949 The Role of Applied Social Science in the Formation of Policy. *Philosophy of Science* 16, 161-81.

1951 Social Scientists and Research Policy (with Daniel Lerner). In Daniel Lerner and H.D. Lasswell, eds. *The Policy Sciences*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 282-307.

1955 The Knowledge of Man. In Lewis Leary, ed. *The Unity of Knowledge*. New York: Doubleday & Co., 150-154.

1956 *The Role of Social Research in Business Administration: A Case Study Based Primarily Upon the 1930-1949 Experience of the Opinion Research Section of the Chief Statistician's Division of AT&T* (with E.C. Devereux, Jr.). 2 vols. New York: Bureau of Applied Social Research.

1960 The History of Quantification in the Sciences. *Items* 14 (March), 1-5.

1960 Introduction to The Ambivalences of Le Bon's *The Crowd* (introduction to the Compass Edition of Gustave Le Bon, *The Crowd*). New York: Viking Press, v-xxxix.

1961 The Mosaic of the Behavioral Sciences. In Bernard Berelson, ed. *The Behavioral Sciences Today*. New York: Basic Books.

1961 Social Conflict in Styles of Sociological Work. *Transactions*,

*Fourth World Congress of Sociology* 3, 21-46.

1961 Now the Case for Sociology: The Canons of the Anti-Sociologist. *New York Times Magazine*, July 16.

1962 Notes on Sociology in the U.S.S.R. (with Henry Riecken). *Current Problems in Social Behavioral Research*. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Social and Behavioral Sciences, 7-14.

1962 Practical Problems and the Uses of Social Science (with Edward C. Devereux, Jr.). *Trans-Action* 1, 18-21.

1962 On the Shoulders of Giants: A Shandean Postscript. New York: The Free Press.

1967 *On Theoretical Sociology: Five Essays, Old and New*. New York: The Free Press.

1971 The Precarious Foundations of Detachment in Sociology. In Edward A. Tiryakian, ed. *The Phenomenon of Sociology*. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 188-199.

1971 Introduction to Lewis A. Coser. *Masters of Sociological Thought*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, vii-viii.

1972 On Discipline Building: The Paradoxes of George Sarton (with Arnold Thackray). *ISIS* 63, 219, 473-495.

1975 Social Knowledge and Public Policy. In Mirra Komarovsky, ed. *Sociology and Public Policy: The Case of Presidential Commissions*. New York: Elsevier Scientific Publishing Co.

1977 *The Sociology of Science in Europe* (edited with Jerry Gaston and Adam Podgorecki). Carbondale: University of Southern Illinois Press.

1978 The Sociological Study of Scientific Specialties (with Thomas F. Gieryn). *Social*

- Studies of Science*. London: SAGE: 257-261.
- 1979 *The Sociology of Science: An Episodic Memoir*. Carbondale: University of Southern Illinois Press.
- 1979 Remembering Paul Lazarsfeld. In *Qualitative and Quantitative Research: Papers in Honor of Paul F. Lazarsfeld* (edited with James S. Coleman and Peter H. Rossi) New York: Free Press, 19-22.
- 1980 *Sociological Traditions from Generation to Generation: Glimpses of the American Experience* (edited with Matilda White Riley). Norwood, NJ: Ablex Publishing.
- 1980 On the Oral Transmission of Knowledge. In *Sociological Traditions from Generation to Generation: Glimpses of the American Experience* (edited with Matilda White Riley) Norwood, NJ: Ablex Publishing Corp., 1-35.
- 1980 Remembering the Young Talcott Parsons. *The American Sociologist*, 15 (May), 68-71.
- 1982 Alvin W. Gouldner: Genesis and Growth of a Friendship. *Theory and Society*, 11, 915-938.
- 1983 Florian Znaniecki: A Short Reminiscence. *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, 10, 123-126.
- 1984 The Kelvin Dictum and Social Science: An Excursion into the History of an Idea (with David L. Sills and Stephen M. Stigler) *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, 20, October, 319-331. [1986. In Brenda Spatt, *Writing from Sources* 2nd edition. New York: St. Martin's Press 27-31.]
- 1985 George Sarton: Episodic Recollections by an Unruly Apprentice. *Isis*, 76, 477-486.
- 1985 The Historicist-Presentist Dilemma. *History of Sociology*, 6, 137-151.
- 1987 The Focussed Interview & Focus Groups: Continuities and Discontinuities. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 51, 550-566.
- 1988 Sociological Resonances: The Early Franco Ferrarotti and a Transatlantic Colleague. In R. Cipriani and M.I. Maciotti, eds., *Omaggio a Franco Ferrarotti*. Rome: Siores, 83-91.
- 1988 Some Thoughts on the Concept of Sociological Autobiography. In Matilda White Riley, ed., *Sociological Lives*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, 17-21.
- 1988 The Sorokin-Merton Correspondence on Puritanism, Pietism and Science, 1933-1934. *Science in Context*. vol.3, no.1, 293-300.
- 1989 Unanticipated consequences and kindred sociological ideas: A personal gloss. In Carlo Mongardini and Simonetta Tabboni, eds. *L'Opera di Robert K. Merton e la sociologia contemporanea*. Genova: ECIG, 307-329.
- 1990 *Social Science Quotations: Who Said What, When, and Where* (with David L. Sills). *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, vol. 19. New York: MacMillan Publishing Company. [1991 Paperback edition].
- 1990 STS: Foreshadowings of an Evolving Research Program in the Sociology of Science. In I. Bernard Cohen, ed. *Puritanism and the Rise of Modern Science: The Merton Thesis*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 334-371.
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### *Lopata, Helena Znaniecka.*

(Thanks for information from Elzbieta Halas and Harold L. Orbach)

Helena Znaniecki-Lopata was a very active member of RCHS. She passed away on April 12. The Znaniecki papers are at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. Helena Znaniecki-Lopata will be memorialized at the Midwest Sociological Society Meeting, 2003. Helena Lopata's Papers have been placed at the Women and Leadership Archives at Loyola University's library in Chicago. They contain (inter alia) Helena's own papers and correspondence, i.e., family papers from the 19th Century that she had been working on, papers that concern the forced participation of the family in the 1870 Franco-Prussian war, correspondence between the men at war and their families in Krakow.

Her publication, "SSSI and I" will appear in the next issue of *Symbolic Interaction*, this spring. Last year she published an extensive biographical statement, recounting her experiences in the Second World War in Poland before she and her mother escaped. It contains some strong views about the forthcoming "war" plans of the Bush administration, views she continued to hold this year as the invasion of Iraq approached. This piece was published in "Network News," the bulletin of the Sociologists for Women in Society (Spring 2002), Volume 19, No. 1. It is entitled "Wars: Commentaries and Reminiscences." You can find it on the internet at

<http://newmedia.colorado.edu/~socwom/en/myturn8.html>. (It was written in October 2001, with additions in February 2002.)

The abstract for her own autobiographical essay, and an earlier case study of her can convey something of her life and work.

"Lopata begins her life story by documenting the influences of class, economics, & Polish nationalism on her father, whose circuitous travels & experiences led to the author's 1925 birth in Poland. A serious childhood illness, the escape from a concentration camp, & emigration to the US are described along with the pursuit of sociology, marriage & husband, & the development of Polish American studies. Lopata discusses the experience of teaching at various colleges & describes the processes behind many of her publications. The personal details accompanying Lopata's vacillations between family, scholarship, & publishing are included, along with her lifelong commitment to scholarship, culminating in her emeritus status at Loyola University". (Abstract of "*Lopata, Helena Znaniecka. Life as a Sociologist. Marriage & Family Review*, 2000, 30, 3: 83-102.)

"As the daughter of a famous sociologist, Lopata first had to overcome her lack of confidence in her own

abilities to continue the legacy of her father; in addition, she had to do this in a social climate that valued women primarily as wives & mothers. Lopata's success was achieved after she was able to resolve the role conflicts encountered as a "woman scholar"; thus, her experience represents the pulls & restraints many women in the US confront in negotiating a balance between family & career. Lopata's accomplishments reveal an integration of personal & professional life & a research agenda that has provided an important contribution to the sociological study of social roles." (Source: abstract of Barbara Ryan "Integrating Feminist and Sociological Thought: The Life and Work of Helena Znaniecka Lopata". *American Sociologist*, 1990, 21, 2, summer: 164-178. See also the Chapter by Barbara Ryan in Deegan, Mary Jo. Ed. *Women IN SOCIOLOGY: A BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCEBOOK*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1991.)

Some of Helena's more recent publications include:

Introduction to Hill, Michael R [Ed]; Hoecker-Drysdale, Susan [Ed]. *HARRIET MARTINEAU: THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES*. New York: Routledge, 2001

Chapter on Role Theory in *SOCIAL ROLES AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS: ESSAYS IN HONOR OF ROSE LAUB COSER*, Blau, Judith R., & Goodman, Norman Eds , New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 1995 1991 , pp 1-11

Postscript in *A SECOND CHICAGO SCHOOL? THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POSTWAR AMERICAN SOCIOLOGY*, Fine, Gary Alan (Ed), Chicago, IL: U of Chicago Press, 1995, pp 365-386

Chapter on loneliness and widowhood in Hartog, Joseph Ed; Audy, J Ralph Ed; Cohen, Yehudi Ed. *ANATOMY OF LONELINESS*. CI, New York, NY: International Universities Press, 1980

Chapter in Bull, C Neil Ed. *AGING IN RURAL AMERICA*. CI, Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Chapter on 'The Social Role of University Student' in Gubert, Renzo Ed; Tomasi, Luigi Ed. *THE CONTRIBUTION OF FLORIAN ZNANIECKI TO SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY*. Milano, Italy: FrancoAngeli 1993. (Note that this is a reconstructed work on North American universities, drawing on Znaniecki's unpublished article "The Social Role of the University Student")

### *The History of Sociology/Sociological Theory Nexus:*

Many historians of sociology have also worked in the area of sociological theory and I have approached several senior figures to talk about the cross-over between these two areas. In particular, it is of interest to RCHS to encourage such scholars to approach their interests from the historical angle!

Donald Levine writes that: "RCHS was crucial at an early point in my work on history of sociology in two respects:

- 1) at a time when almost no one else was working in this area, it provided truly important moral support;
- 2) some colleagues I met through RCHS turned out to be exceptionally important in my later work".

Don's recent publications include:

Simmel's Contradictory Positions on Modern Culture. [Italian]. Le posizioni contraddittorie di Simmel sulla cultura moderna. *Rassegna Italiana di Sociologia*, 2001, 42, 4, Oct-Dec: 541-548

On the Critique of "Utilitarian" Theories of Action: Newly Identified Convergences among Simmel, Weber

and Parsons. *Theory Culture & Society*, 2000, 17, 1, Feb: 63-78

Dialogues of the Nations: Revisiting Visions and Its Critics. *Sociological Quarterly*, 2001, 42, 1, winter: 111-120

REPLY TO REVIEW SYMPOSIUM - Visions of the Sociological Tradition. *History of the Human Sciences*, 1997, 10, 2, May: 168-173.

### *Book Notes:*

**The British Sociological Association  
A Sociological History**  
Jennifer Platt  
(retrieved from BSA website)

This book is about the development of sociology in Britain told through the story of its learned society, the British Sociological Association. Learned societies have been neglected in the history of the discipline, though they are a vital part of the social structure of academic life. The BSA has had its internal dynamics, but it has also been affected by external factors relevant to wider academic life, which range from government policies to the rise of feminism. These have had an important effect on all the social sciences, but their impact upon sociology has been particularly marked.

The book begins with a general historical overview, starting with the range of predecessor organisations, and going on to how the BSA came to be founded, the major changes in educational policy and structures which have formed much of the context for its activities, and how it has, in response to both internal and external pressures, changed over time. Against that background, the remaining chapters look in more analytical detail at particular issues across the whole time-span. These include the role of the BSA

in the intellectual life of the discipline, the nature of the membership and activists, the role of feminism, case studies of key issues of controversy and politics arising from individual cases, and consideration of how the association has been run and its relationship with other organisations such as the International Sociological Association and the ESRC (a key government funding body). The book concludes with an overview of the history of the BSA and its role as a professional association.  
April 2003 186pp/ Pb: £17.50 ISBN 1-903457-06-8

**Weber's Methodologies Polity Press**  
Sven Eliaeson  
(retrieved from Polity Press website)

Max Weber is widely regarded as the most important and influential figure in the history of the social sciences. Among other things, he wrote extensively on the methodology of the social sciences, but his writings on methodology are complex and are the subject of many conflicting interpretations. In this authoritative new book, Sven Eliaeson provides a comprehensive introduction to Weber's methodology and to the various ways it has been by subsequent scholars in Europe and the United States. Eliaeson shows how the

vested interests of scholars have resulted in biased interpretations of Weber's work. Weber was preoccupied with the intellectual problems of his time and not with our current disciplinary crises. By placing Weber's thought and methodology in its historical context, Eliaeson is able to provide a masterly reconstruction of his central concerns while at the same time exploring the enduring relevance of Weber's work for sociology today.

This book will be recognized as a definitive work on Weber's methodology and will be an indispensable text for students and scholars in sociology and the social sciences.

**The Travels and Adventures of Serendipity : A Study in Historical Semantics and the Sociology of Science** [Robert K. Merton](#) and [Elinor G. Barber](#)

From the names of cruise lines and bookstores to an Australian ranch and a nudist camp outside of Atlanta, the word *serendipity*--that happy blend of wisdom and luck by which something is discovered not quite by accident--is today ubiquitous. This book traces the word's eventful history from its 1754 coinage into the twentieth century--chronicling along the way much of what we now call the natural and social sciences.

The book charts where the term went, with whom it resided, and how it fared. We cross oceans and academic

specialties and meet those people, both famous and now obscure, who have used and abused *serendipity*. We encounter a linguistic sage, walk down the illustrious halls of the Harvard Medical School, attend the (serendipitous) birth of penicillin, and meet someone who "manages serendipity" for the U.S. Navy.

The story of *serendipity* is fascinating; that of *The Travels and Adventures of Serendipity*, equally so. Written in the 1950s by already-eminant sociologist Robert Merton and Elinor Barber, the book--though occasionally and most tantalizingly cited--was intentionally never published. This is all the more curious because it so remarkably anticipated subsequent battles over research and funding--many of which centered on the role of serendipity in science. Finally, shortly after his ninety-first birthday, following Barber's death and preceding his own by but a little, Merton agreed to expand and publish this major work.

Beautifully written, the book is permeated by the prodigious intellectual curiosity and generosity that characterized Merton's influential *On the Shoulders of Giants*. Absolutely entertaining as the history of a word, the book is also tremendously important to all who value the miracle of intellectual discovery. It represents Merton's lifelong protest against that rhetoric of science that defines discovery as anything other than a messy blend of inspiration, perspiration, error, and happy chance--anything other than serendipity.

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[www.ucm.es/info/isa/formisa.htm](http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/formisa.htm).

For those wishing to pay directly, rather than through ISA, please send a cheque to the secretary made out to RCHS.

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