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**Editorial: From the Secretary**

The contents of this newsletter highlight the RCHS sessions at the Durban ISA World Congress for which we have developed an exciting programme. During our Business Meeting in Durban we will need to consider a meeting place and theme for our 2008 Interim Conference, and elect Executive council Members. Please start thinking about proposals for those. Other articles report news relevant to our section and indicate recent books (as reported by *Sociological Abstracts*) of interest to historians of sociology. As usual, members are encouraged to send in details of their own recent historical work.

The attempt by the Executive to change the section’s Statutes to meet ISA requirements has been delayed by insufficient response. I will be emailing those who have not yet voted over the next few weeks.
The need for some to renew their memberships continues, although again I will mail or email those in arrears. Membership in the section and in the central ISA is important. Without adequate numbers we do not attract ISA subsidy, and our number of Congress sessions may be reduced. (And remember, World Congress registration is cheaper for ISA members.) A membership (renewal) form is attached at the back. If your membership has lapsed, please act now! If your membership is not up to date you will not be eligible to give a paper in the RCHS World Congress programme.

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XVI ISA World Congress of Sociology
Durban, South Africa, 23-29 July 2006
The Quality of Social Existence in a Globalising World.

In addition to the RCHS sessions, there are many other activities at the World Congress. Below is the official general introduction; for more information visit the website: http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/congress2006/

‘The theme of the first ISA World Congress of Sociology in Africa is The Quality of Social Existence in a Globalising World.

A number of special sessions that raise continental issues of global concern are being finalized by the Programme Committee which is preparing the semi-plenary morning sessions that will be of interest to the Association's members, Research Committees, Working and Thematic Groups and National Associations.

Durban provides the international social science community with an opportunity to encounter a society in transition, in a context that is highly cognisant of the importance of social science in reconstruction and development. With its superb facilities and infrastructure, Durban has a proven track record of hosting international events and conferences.’
Research Committee on the History of Sociology: Call for Papers

Here is the list of sessions planned; sessions will only run if appropriate papers are received. For further details, see over. Please contact the session organiser if you would like to offer a paper. (If your potential paper does not fit the topic of sessions 1-12, offer it for 13-14.)

Planned Sessions:
(1) History of Sociology in South Africa (Cornie Groenewald: cjg@sun.ac.za)
(2) The New generation’s work in the history of Sociology: a session for graduate students, with senior discussants: Charles Crothers: Charles.crothers@aut.ac.nz
(3) Contributions of national sociologies to the development of world sociological knowledge (Vladimir Kultygin: kultygin@email.ru)
(4) The Sexcentenary of Ibn Khaldun's death (1406) (Mahmoud Dhaouadi: Mthawad@yahoo.ca)
(5) Chinese Sociology and its Multiple Histories (Peter Baehr: pbaehr@ln.edu.hk)
(6) Latin American Sociologies (Gina Zabludovsky and Diego Pereyra: ginaza@servidor.unam.mx and diegoezpereyra@ciudad.com.ar)
(7) History of empirical sociology (Irmela Gorges: I.Gorges@gmx.de)
(8) Writing the history of sociological institutions (Jennifer Platt: j.platt@sussex.ac.uk)
(9) The History and Influence of Schools and Colleges (Cherry Schrecker: cherry.schrecker@wanadoo.fr)
(10) Reception of the work of recently deceased sociologists (Charles Crothers: Charles.crothers@aut.ac.nz)
(11) Gender and the history of sociology (Sanja Magdalenic and Per Wisselgren: sanja.magdalenic@sociology.su.se and per.wisselgren@idehist.uu.se)
(12) The Types and Roles of Public Intellectuals. (Sven Eliaeson: Seliases@ceu.edu.pl)
(13-14) General Sessions on the History of Sociology (Charles Crothers: Charles.crothers@aut.ac.nz)

There will also be the RC’s Business Meeting, and a dinner.
Details of Planned Sessions:

(1) History of Sociology in South Africa
The writing of the history of sociology in South Africa, as a discipline, its teaching and research, and its institutions and agents, frequently was conducted as a reflection on how society, ideologies and power relations impacted on these. This brought about a local but rich literature covering university departments, research offices and some of the persons involved. The effect of globalization, educational reform and democratization recently has become a topic for further research. This session will address the question of how sociology in South Africa has responded to these challenges and developments, locally and in relation to the global system, and has formed new alliances and configurations in process.

(2) “The New Generation’s Work In The History Of Sociology”: A Session For Graduate Students.
Those younger historians of Sociology who have submitted papers before hand, will be invited to present their paper - to be followed by critical but helpful commentary by more senior historians of sociology.

(3) Contributions Of National Sociologies To The Development of The World Sociological Knowledge
Although the development of each science is in part a universal international process there are also national peculiarities which flow from a nation’s particular socio-economic situation, habits, mores and traits of culture, level of the scientific discipline's institutionalization in the country. Sometimes they have quite strong influence not just on the choice of main problems and orientations in the work of scientists in the country, but also on the contribution of these scientists to the world development of this academic discipline. The major goal of the proposed session is to draw the attention of professionals to the achievements of sociologists and sociological institutions that do not belong directly to so called mainstream sociology, and to make these experiences and achievements more known and accessible.

The session might include the evaluation of Ibn Khaldun's thought (concepts, theories..) in the light of contemporary sociology and social sciences, and examination of the influence of his work: especially the Muqaddima.

(5) Chinese Sociology and its Multiple Histories

China has a rich tradition of sociological research but also one that, at various times, has been impeded or disrupted by political transformation. This session is principally concerned to look at the trajectory of sociology in greater China: the People's Republic, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. Contributions are especially welcomed that examine Chinese sociology within its many cultural and political contexts. Contributions might include, but are not limited to, analyses of Chinese sociology's disciplinary formation; the role of translated foreign texts in its development; and the relationship between sociology and the state, pre and post Mao (People's Republic), and pre and post Chiang (Taiwan).

(6) The History of Sociology in Latin American countries

Sociology in Latin America has a rich and appealing past. Its institutional development is amazing. Chairs, institutes and departments of sociology spread out throughout the region very early, even before Europe. Local sociologists also played an important role in international networks of sociology. Further, the Latin-American Sociological Association, established in 1950, was the first regional organisation that gathered sociologists from the same area to discuss sociological matters. There is an increasing interest in many Latin American countries to reflect upon the history of local sociology.

What was the impact of classics in the region? How have national traditions developed? Which were the differences between Latin American and European sociology? Is it possible to develop comparative studies among countries and diverse geographical areas? What was the significance of certain sociological theories and concepts coined in Latin America? Which was the relation between theory and empirical research in the region?
(7) History of empirical social research and statistics

Papers are invited on the history of empirical or statistical social research, on case studies on exceptional studies conducted before the turn of the century, on historical methodical or methodological issues within sociology, or on any other issue relevant for the history of empirical social research and statistics. There is no limitation with regard to the country of origin or epistemological approach of the examples.

(8) Writing the history of sociological institutions

Some of the history of sociology has been written as the history of departments, journals, learned societies and professional associations. What are the advantages of such angles of approach to our history, and how do they affect our total picture of the history of the discipline? What are the special problems that such work raises, whether intellectual, practical or ethical? How successful have such histories been, and what needs remain for further work of this kind?

(9) History and Influence of Schools and Colleges

Very often sociological research is seen as having been organised around schools, colleges or institutes. Examples of these are the Chicago School of sociology, the Frankfurt School, the Institute of Community Studies, the New School of Social Research. A more abstract vision of research groups is portrayed by the idea of "invisible colleges". The objective of this session would be to retrace the history and influence of individual schools, to offer a critical evaluation as to the reality of their existence, and to evaluate the importance of their contribution to sociology.

(10) Reception of the Work of recently Deceased Sociologists: Commemorations and Memorialisations

Recently, several very prominent sociologists have died (eg. Robert Merton, Pierre Bourdieu). How do the sociology and other communities react to such deaths? What is the effect of death as a ‘career contingency’ in the development of a sociological career? Some case studies on this topic and a view of the changes over time in the reception of the death of a sociologist might provide some interesting insights into a variety of phenomena amongst sociologists in terms of reputations, rites de passage etc.
(11) Gender and the History of Sociology

The past decades have witnessed a rise of the interest in the relationship between gender and the history of sociology. Which similarities and differences concerning the ways in which gender has been implicated in the historical development of sociology as a discipline and a profession have been identified across national sociology fields? What do we know about the attempts to place gender on the sociological agenda that occurred in different arenas, such as sociology departments or professional associations? Has the absence and the rediscovery of women pioneers in sociology influenced how we think about and write the history of sociology?

(12) Sociologists as Public Intellectuals.

The focus in this session focus will be on sociologists (in the broadest sense) who have become public intellectuals, e.g., the Myrdals. Ever since Machiavelli public intellectuals have had various relationships with the political powers (decision makers, popular mass movements) in society and their role in the public sphere has varied with context. It appears as increasingly relevant to problematize the concept of public intellectuals and their diverse function in policy formation. East of the Elbe we find a “Stunde Null”-situation with an open future, in which sociology appears as less prophylactic and therapeutic and more policy oriented, as in Sweden half a century ago: social engineering still has a market in classical fields of social reform, such as health care, nutrition, education, employment policy, housing, etc. However, West of the Elbe, public intellectuals tend to provide “interpretive schemes”, to relieve the pain and frustration of post-Modern disorientation as seen in public intellectuals such as Giddens, Bourdieu, Dahrendorf, Beck, Habermas.

(13-14) Other papers

Any other topics reporting research in the history of sociology will be entertained: possible examples include the 100th anniversaries of Weber’s Protestant Ethic, and the American Sociological Association.
Letter from the President

RCHS is not only a body that holds meetings at which papers of interest are given, and one meets congenial colleagues working in related fields. Those are worthwhile activities in themselves, but they can also lead to more, developing joint work and publications which take advantage of this network.

Publications so far include these:

- Josef Langer (ed.) *Emerging Sociology: an international perspective* (Avebury, 1992)

  This contains papers on aspects of the sociology of Germany, Spain, India, China, Bulgaria and Finland, as well as two on cross-national influences - the influence of Herbert Spencer in Japan, and of Durkheim in India; the different national patterns are placed in a more general framework of the historical development of sociology in different countries and how that has fitted into the worldwide pattern.

- Janusz Mucha, Dirk Kaezler and Wlodzimierz Winclawski (eds.) *Mirrors and Windows: essays in the history of sociology* (Nicholas Copernicus University Press, 2001)

  Here there is a wide range of papers, not focused on one central theme but with several groups of related interest; some, such as those on the Chicago School and the effects of migration, come from established fields of work, others, such as those on the use of biographies in the history of sociology and on sociological archives, have topics less often discussed. These papers come from the meeting in Torun, and so Polish sociology is well represented, although again there is material from a range of countries.


  This contains papers on the history of the national sociological associations of Austria, Britain, Germany, India, Poland, Russia and Turkey, with a conclusion which compares the ‘life courses’ of the different associations described and relates those to local situations.
It is good simply to publish a collection of interesting papers, but we can go beyond that. These different publications have varied in the breadth of the ranges of topics that they cover, and the degree of integration of the different contributions. But each of them has also offered the opportunity to bring together work of related interest in a way which allows us to compare and contrast both the historical trajectories of socially and geographically diverse sociologies, and the intellectual styles in which those may be approached from somewhat different traditions, and so the fact of bringing together diverse but related papers has in itself added to our knowledge and encouraged the development of theoretical explanations.

There are models here that could well be followed again, and I hope they will be. But perhaps there are also other ways of combining papers that we have not yet tried. I think that it is a weakness, though one it is hard to avoid, that the coverage of the groups of papers has not been planned in advance on intellectual grounds, but has emerged from the happy chance of which members have volunteered. Unfortunately conscription is not practical! But if we could find a way of cooperating to implement a research design which chose the areas to be represented so that they gave a more representative coverage of world sociology, or selected cases to explore the value of strategic comparisons for reaching convincing general conclusions, that would be a big step forward. Similarly, a collective agreement by a group to work on a neglected, or problematic but promising, topic could lead to worthwhile progress.

Other members may well have other ideas on the best ways to develop more collective work. I hope that we will all think how to maximise the use of our contacts to work together to develop our field. Do you have an idea that would benefit from comparative material which you cannot yet find? Perhaps you would like to start a discussion in this newsletter about activities you would be interested in? What are the possibilities that will arise from our programme in Durban next year, and can we now plan the organisation of our sessions there so that they will lead to fruitful publications? Might there be programmes of work that carry over from that meeting to our next one? Let’s look forward to more and better intellectual cooperation!

Jennifer Platt

Statutes Change Proposal: Reminder
As pointed out in the previous newsletter, it has become necessary to propose some technical changes to our Statutes. The ISA is rightly concerned to ensure that its rules about membership are kept, and will not allocate available grants to Research Committees which do not observe them. The key rule here is that members of our Executive Council must be paid-up members of both RCHS and ISA, and this cannot be evaded by allowing vacancies to remain unfilled if any problems arise. The proposals made in the are designed to deal with these issues in the clearest and most economical way possible, as well as clarifying the situation by covering some relevant points from the ISA's Statutes. The rather lengthy suggestions in clause V (vii) are designed to arrange for replacements as swiftly and simply as possible, while recognising that the tasks of the Secretaryship can only be done by someone with appropriate time and resources, so that this position has to be filled less mechanically.

The text printed in the previous newsletter (available at http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/rc08.htm) outlined the proposed changes. These changes have been approved by the members present at the business meeting held in Marienthal, but for full formal approval they must be accepted by a majority of all the members in a mail ballot. Please, therefore, those who have not yet voted are asked to let the Secretary know at once if you approve the proposals, by email to charles.crothers@aut.ac.nz. It is important that you reply, as we require a 50% acceptance level to allow the Statutes change to go ahead.

**Report on the Swedish Network for Research on the History of Sociology and the Social Sciences**

Over the last decade, Swedish research on the history of sociology and the social sciences has witnessed a period of strong expansion. A steadily growing number of new dissertations, research projects, anthologies and articles, dealing with varying aspects of the history of the social sciences, have appeared. Until now, however, these research initiatives, performed by individual researchers from a broad range of different disciplinary and institutional settings, have been rather disparate and unnecessarily isolated from each other.

In order to offer a common platform for extended communication among the researchers in the area, an informal and multidisciplinary Network for Research on the History of Sociology and the Social Sciences was created in
October 2003. From its very start, as many as 47 participants joined the Network, a number that has subsequently increased. At the time of writing there are 55 participants, representing more than ten different subjects – including economic history, economics, education, ethnology, history, intellectual history, political science, social anthropology, social work, sociology and statistics – from universities all over Sweden.

The idea of the Network is rather simple. Primarily, it is meant to function as a forum for information about earlier, ongoing and planned research and other upcoming and passed events related to the research area. A second aim is to stimulate and create opportunities for new research-based activities, in terms of sessions, seminars, workshops and conferences. In the long run it is hoped that the Network will encourage new joint projects between the researchers involved.

What actually will be realized and come out of the Network in the end remains of course to be seen. Already, though, several important things have been achieved. Most important is undoubtedly the creation of the Network in itself as a communicative infrastructure for further initiatives. Another concrete result is the compiled document, including data on the participants: addresses, publications, ongoing projects and planned research. Actually, the directory of members can be read as a quite impressive inventory of the state of art of Swedish research in the history of sociology and the social sciences. The Network may also be used as a kind of notice board, for reports and announcements on passed and upcoming events, workshops, conferences, etc. For example, Anna Larsson recently shared a report from the Marienthal conference.

Moreover, a special working group on the history of sociology and the social sciences was organized at the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Swedish Sociological Association. The sessions were well-attended, with interesting papers, well-prepared commentators, oral presentations and a general discussion on the network, resulting in the decision that there will be a follow-up working group at next year’s Annual Meeting.

Sanja Magdalenic and Per Wisselgren

News from the Section on the History of Sociology of the American Sociological Association
The meetings of the American Sociological Association, August 13-16, 2005, in Philadelphia will constitute the Centennial Meetings of that Association. To celebrate its founding, ASA is planning numerous events and sessions of great interest, including approximately 20 special Centennial sessions, four of which are being organized and chaired by members of the History of Sociology Section. These include sessions on (1) W.E.B. Du Bois and Philadelphia, including his study of *The Philadelphia Negro* (Donald Cunnigen), (2) The Formation of American sociology in International Context examining the international influences, interchanges, and conflicts in the historical development of sociology (Susan Hoecker-Drysdale), (3) The Rise and Ebb of Sociology’s Significance in the US through the examination of five critical historical moments of sociology’s encounter with the American public mind, and (4) Landmark Sociological Studies: Delayed Pre-War Classics, discussing studies critical in shaping postwar sociology (Ed Tiryakian). Additionally, the History of Sociology Section will convene a session on “The History of American Sociology: Main Currents and Crosscurrents in the Formation of the Discipline”, organized by Larry Nichols and Betsy Lucal. We will send further details later about the Section program, reception, awards, films, etc.

The History of Sociology Section of ASA is a young section, having been formed as late as 1999. Nonetheless, interest among ASA members in the history of sociology is growing significantly and the section has been very active this year. To mention briefly some of our activities: (1) a volume entitled *Diverse Histories of American Sociology*, edited by Anthony Blasi with contributions by section members, suggesting alternative histories of sociology in the US, will be published this summer by Brill and will be available at the ASA meetings; (2) a HOS Section website ([http://www.mtholyoke.edu/go/hos](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/go/hos)) has been developed recently by Eleanor Townsley and Mikaila Arthur to facilitate section communication, (3) our newsletter, *Timelines*, has become electronic this year which minimizes costs, allows for a more substantial publication, and is readily available to section members. We know that many of you are members of the ASA History of Sociology Section and we hope that those of you who are not currently will consider joining us. The dues for joining the Section, beyond the ASA membership, are $10 US for faculty and $5 US for students. My own view, and that of many members of the section, is that we should try to increase communication and exchange between the two sections, perhaps holding joint meetings occasionally, for the advancement of our shared interests.
We do hope that you will join us in Philadelphia for the Centennial meetings, participate in our section activities and sessions, and consider becoming members of the section on the history of sociology. (I personally hope that, after several absences, I will be able to join you at the next RCHS meetings which are always worthwhile and enjoyable.) Best wishes to you all.

_Susan Hoecker-Drysdale_
Chair 2004-2005, Section on the History of Sociology of the American Sociological Association

**History and Development of Sociology Theme within the EOLSS**

The Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS) ([www.eolss.net](http://www.eolss.net)) “is an integrated knowledge base dedicated to the health, maintenance, and future of the web of life on planet Earth, focusing on sustainable development in all its myriad aspects from ecological issues to human security. The Encyclopedia is designed to be a guide and reference for a wide range of users: from natural and social scientists to engineers, economists, educators, university students and professors, conservationists, entrepreneurs, law and policy-makers and is aimed particularly at universities in least developed countries and disadvantaged individuals worldwide. EOLSS covers by now about 200 themes, each managed by an internationally recognized expert in the field, with contributions from more than 7000 scholars and will include some 70 million words and with recent hit rates of 54000 per day.

The EOLSS attempts to forge pathways between disciplines in order to show their interdependence and help foster the transdisciplinary aspects of the relationship between nature and human society. It is a place where traditional disciplines are at their best and at the same time shake hands with other disciplines for meaningful answers to some of the most complex questions facing us today.”

Charles Crothers has been appointed to EOLSS International Editorial Council and has been asked to manage a new theme - the history and development of sociology - which they are adding to the Encyclopedia. This theme will involve an overview and some 20-30 chapters. This may provide
a useful resource for RCHS members, especially those teaching in developing countries with few library resources. It is also of significance that the UNESCO editorial board wishes to provide this amount of sociological material. Members who would like to suggest ideas are welcome to send them to Charles.

**Recent History of Sociology Books recorded by Sociological Abstracts: title, author, citation characteristics.**


**RAYMOND WILLIAMS'S SOCIOLOGY OF CULTURE: A CRITICAL RECONSTRUCTION** Jones, Paul xx+247pp, Houndmills, UK: Palgrave Macmi, 2004

**GEORGE HERBERT MEAD AND HUMAN CONDUCT (Thomas J. Morrione's edition)** Blumer, Herbert xx+197pp, Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira, 2004


**WORLDS OF WORK: BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGY OF WORK** Cornfield, Daniel B [Ed]; Hodson, Randy [Ed] xiii+378pp, New York: Kluwer Academic/Pl

"**BETWEEN TWO WORLDS" HANS GERTH: EINE BIOGRAFIE 1908-1978** Gerth, Nobuko 286pp, Opladen, Germany: Verlag Leske +


**THE PROTESTANT ETHIC DEBATE: MAX WEBER'S REPLIES TO HIS CRITICS, 1907-1910** Chalcraft, David J [Ed]; Harrington, Austin [Ed] vii+149pp, Liverpool, UK: Liverpool U Pr
HARRIET MARTINEAU: THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES
Hill, Michael R [Ed]; Hoecker-Drysdale, Susan [Ed]
xvii+233pp, New York: Routledge, 2001

OBJECTIVITY AND THE SILENCE OF REASON: WEBER, HABERMAS, AND THE METHODOLOGICAL DISPUTES IN GERMAN
McCarthy, George E
341pp, New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction, 2

SOCIOLOGY AS POLITICAL EDUCATION Mannheim, Karl
xiv+207pp, New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction

HANDBOOK OF SOCIAL THEORY Ritzer, George [Ed]; Smart, Barry [Ed]

TALCOTT PARSONS TODAY: HIS THEORY AND LEGACY IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGY

BACK TO MIDDLETOWN: THREE GENERATIONS OF SOCIOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS
Caccamo de Luca, Rita xvi+149pp, Stanford, CA: Stanford U Press

SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION: AN HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION Cipriani, Roberto ix+278pp, Hawthorne, NY: Aldine De Gruyt

DU BOIS ON RELIGION Du Bois, W E B vii+209pp, Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY Adorno, Theodor W ix+198pp, Stanford, CA: Stanford U Press


RCHS Membership: Payment Possibilities

The basic RCHS subscription is US$10 for one year, or $30 for 4 years. For students it is $5 or $15. This reduced rate also applies to others from non-OECD countries who would have difficulty in paying the full rate.
There is also a facility for ISA members to pay to the central ISA, which enables those who wish to do so to use a credit card: a copy of their form is on the ISA website: 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.
Membership in the RCHS is open to anyone interested in the field. You become a member as soon as your application form and money have been received by the secretary.

History of Sociology membership application or renewal

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