

NEWSLETTER OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON CONCEPTUAL AND TERMINOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

International Sociological Association – Research Committee 35

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COCTA News

Dear members and friends of COCTA,

amidst the terrible news from Japan, it is with great relief that I let everyone know that Yoshimichi 'Mitch' Sato (Tohoku University), COCTA's Vice-President Asia, informed me he is fine.

On behalf of the board, I wish to welcome the new members to our committee! We invite you like all our members to participate in our activities and make any proposals for conferences or other academic proceedings in the field of conceptual analysis you are interested in.

This issue of *COCTA News* focuses on the **ISA Forum of Sociology 2012**. ISA's second Forum will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1-4 August 2012. As decided at our meeting in Gothenburg, COCTA will hold its main interim conference at the Forum.

In view of the **Buenos Aires** Forum, we are now inviting session offers. Please see the **Call for Sessions** as well as further information on the event below and submit your proposals no later than **June 1, 2011**.

The International Institute of Sociology has invited COCTA to participate in the upcoming **2012 IIS World Congress in Delhi**, India. We have submitted session proposals which we will circulate if accepted. You may also submit a proposal yourself. The deadline is **March 31, 2011**. You will find all necessary information here: www.iisoc.org/iis2012.

For information on the **ISA World Congress 2014 in Yokohama**, Japan, please look here: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/>.

Following our previous newsletter you received two **Calls for Papers**. By now both deadlines have passed, but I include the Calls here, nonetheless – as a reminder of the conferences as well as to highlight that all members are invited to use this newsletter to disseminate information on your proceedings in the field of conceptual analysis.

Accordingly and by your request, this issue further introduces a (still nascent) section on our members' recent and upcoming **publications**. Please do not hesitate to send me your input for future newsletters, preferably in response to my announcement (presumably in late July/early August) that the next issue is in the making.

Finally, please let me direct your attention to the webpage of the "Conference on Modernity, Critique, and Humanism", co-organized by COCTA's Vice-President America Oliver Kozlarek, that took place February 12-13 2011 in Los Angeles, USA. The Call for this event was published in our previous newsletter. You will find pictures and videos of the event, the program and much more here: <http://modernitycritiquehumanism.blogspot.com/>

In closing, as usual, I would like to ask you to spread the word on COCTA and let your colleagues know that everyone interested in our current and future activities is cordially invited to participate. Do not hesitate to present your ideas in case you would like to propose or organize a COCTA conference or session. We are looking forward to be meeting you (again) rather sooner than later!

On behalf of the board, cordially yours,

David Strecker

Call for Sessions

for the **COCTA Interim Conference** at the

Second ISA Forum of Sociology (Social Justice and Democratization) in

Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 1-4, 2012

COCTA invites its members to organize a session at the Second ISA Forum of Sociology. Each session will last 90 minutes, and we have been allocated 10 slots (incl. our business meeting). If you would like to convene a session on conceptual and terminological questions in sociology in Buenos Aires, whether connected to the Forum theme or not, please send your proposal for a Call for Papers to David.Strecker@uni-jena.de no later than **June 1, 2011**.

In selecting the sessions and drafting the RC program, the COCTA board will take into account the diverse nature of our committee and the broad range of our members' research interests and will focus on the quality of the proposals and a balanced representation of its members. The selected sessions will be posted on the conference homepage (<http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012>) where abstracts for papers to be presented may be submitted from 25 August to 15 December 2011. Session organizers are requested to ensure that all participants to their session register by April 10, 2012.

Organizational Information

on the

Second ISA Forum of Sociology
“Social Justice and Democratization” in

Buenos Aires, Argentina,
August 1-4, 2012

The ISA set the following guidelines for the Buenos Aires Forum:

A person (including sole author, co-authors, discussant, plenary speakers, session (co)chair, critic, roundtable presenter, poster presenter) can only be incorporated in the Congress programme twice, no matter their function (except Programme Coordinators and session organisers).

One cannot present a paper in the same session that one is chairing.

In order to be included in the programme, the participants (presenters, chairs, discussants, etc.) need to be registered by the early registration deadline April 10, 2012. If not registered, their names will not appear in the Programme Book or in the Abstracts Book.

More information is provided on the congress website: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012>

Conference Announcement

Methods of Theorizing: Reflective Searches for Ways, Ideals and Measures

International Social Theory Consortium, 10th Annual Meeting

16-17 June 2011, School of Sociology & Philosophy, University College
Cork, Ireland

Social theory and method are inextricably bound up with one another, despite the convention of their separation and a recent tendency to differentiate them entirely by emphasizing technical training in particular methods over general education in culture and thinking. But to theorize, whether in Sociology, Philosophy, Politics, Anthropology, or in any cognate field in the Arts, Humanities and Social sciences means not simply to arrange empirical evidence, but also to seek to clarify the Ideals, Standards or Measure by virtue of a way of inquiry that is sustained and methodically pursued, so much so that we may speak of method(s) of theorizing.

Questions of method, or searches for the 'Way', just as the use of the powers of reason, cannot be reduced to a search for means to satisfy given ends, but must incorporate a discussion of the very ends of social and human life, including the question of meaning. Methods of theorizing are thus ways of attending to the world so as to bring into view, contemplate and articulate Standards of beauty, truth and the good life; radiant Ideals that illuminate and make possible an understanding and interpretation of our present practices and institutions, thereby enabling our education and self-transformation in light of such a Measure.

As Weber concludes in 'Politics as a Vocation' "all historical experience confirms the truth – that man would not have attained the possible unless time and again he had reached out for the impossible." Theorizing can thus be conceived of as the methodical reaching out for the impossible Measure. But as *theoria* and *methodus* have become differentiated we lose sight of the Ways towards recovering our Ideals just at a time when economic crisis, ecological catastrophe and political turmoil threaten to overwhelm us.

Last year's ISTC meeting sought to transcend the cultural turn's differentiation & proliferation of Habermasian, Foucaulian, Eliasian, subaltern, feminist, sub-disciplinary theories, a concern indicating an aspiration towards our recovering re-integrating, holistic methods of theorizing. This year's conference continues this search for renaissance, inviting contributions seeking a reflective balance and harmony amongst the various currents in social & political thought at the fundamental level of theory and method, focus on their relation to the elusive but very real directive Ideals of human existence.

Papers are invited that speak to the topic from:

- Classical & contemporary social theory: working with our inheritance
- Methodology of Critical Theory
- Literary methods and Social Theory
- The interpretive tradition, depth hermeneutics & analysis
- The performative aspects of public life
- Media power and image magic
- Psychoanalytic method and social theory
- Phenomenology & hermeneutics
- Epistemologies and philosophies of knowledge today
- Asian philosophies and methods
- Socrates, Plato, and working with the Greeks today
- Political anthropology and reflexive historical sociology

Convenor: Arpad Szakolczai, Professor of Sociology, University College, Cork, Ireland.

Please submit abstracts by March 1, 2011 to s.renwick@ucc.ie

Conference Announcement
**Rethinking the Modern: Colonialism, Empire, and
Slavery**

BSA Theory Study Group Conference

11-12 July 2011, Birmingham Midland Institute, UK

In recent times, a number of academics and commentators have sought to offer a revisionist history of colonialism that sees it as something that wasn't as bad as some others make out, that actually made the modern world as we now know it and so was essentially a good thing, or was something to be understood simply in terms of networks of circulation and distribution. The sense of colonialism as a wretched episode of human history that continues to distort the life chances of those unfortunate enough to live under its legacies is slowly being eroded. Similar revisions are underway to our understandings of modern transatlantic slavery and its continuing legacies. We believe that the historical processes of imperialism, colonialism and slavery shaped, and continue to shape, our common world in ways which have been and continue to be problematic. This conference seeks to confront head-on these new revisionist histories and provide the space for a more adequate understanding of these processes and their legacies as they continue into today.

Streams:

- Imperial Enlightenment and Critical Thought
- Coloniality / Modernity
- The Place of Minorities in Modernity and Coloniality
- Recovering Forgotten Histories
- Decolonial Thought and Other Philosophies
- Slavery and its Legacies
- Is Global History / Sociology Possible?
- Migration and Empire: Voluntary and Forced
- Colonial Desires and Eastern Empires
- Reassessing Anti-Colonial and Liberation Movements
- From Empire to Neo-Imperialism
- The Colonial Context of the European Integration Project, Past and Present

Abstract Submission:

Abstracts should be no more than 300 words and should be sent as an attachment to the following address: rtm.conf@warwick.ac.uk

The deadline for receipt of abstracts is Friday 25th February 2011.

Any questions, please get in touch with Gurminder K Bhambra (g.k.bhambra[AT]warwick.ac.uk) or Lucy Mayblin (l.mayblin[AT]warwick.ac.uk)

Conference Team: Gurminder K. Bhambra / Ipek Demir / Peo Hansen / Gary Hazeldine / Stefan Jonsson / Vicky Margree / Lucy Mayblin / Soren Rud / Robbie Shilliam / Rolando Vazquez / Ozan Zeybek

Members' Announcements: Publications

Tim Berard, long-standing COCTA member, has published an article offering a critical assessment of the concept of **institutional racism**:

“Unpacking Institutional Racism: Insights from Wittgenstein, Garfinkel, Schutz, Goffman, and Sacks”, in: *Schutzian Research* Vol. II, 2010 (Lead Article).

Oliver Kozlarek, COCTA Vice-President America, announces that his new book will be published in July:

Moderne als Weltbewusstsein. Ideen für eine humanistische Sozialtheorie in der globalen Moderne. Bielefeld: transcript 2011.

Composition of the Board for the Period 2010-2014

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