

November
2015

RCHS

Research Committee on the History of Sociology
International Sociological Association

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Editorial

This edition of the RC08's newsletter brings you more information about our interim conference, which will take place in Warsaw on July 2016. Our readers may check the list of proposed sessions and the schedule for abstract submissions as well. The organizing committee also provides more general information about the conference so everybody can make their own travel arrangements. Please bear in mind that the conference will end just a couple of days before the opening of the ISA's Forum in Vienna.

This edition also brings a lot of interesting texts from our members! Márcia Consolim, Raphael Bentien and Raquel Weiss share with us the ideas behind the project of publishing critical editions of key texts from the French Sociological School, which will completely renew the reading of these authors in Brazil. Diego Pereyra tells us about the experience of teaching history of sociology in Argentina and gives a nice list of selected publications which emerged from this research effort. Charles Crothers presents us a brief and nice research on the reviews of books on the history of sociology covered by Sociological Abstracts, and Jan Maršálek wrote some paragraphs about his recent PhD thesis on the epistemology and history of "analysis" in classical European authors.

Enjoy your reading!

Interim Conference

MONUMENTS, RELICS AND REVIVALS

● Warsaw, 6-8 July 2016 ●

Organizers:

- * International Sociological Association, Research Committee on History of Sociology
- * Institute of Sociology, University of Warsaw
- * Polish Sociological Association

Advisory Board:

- * Peter Baehr, Janusz Mucha, Jennifer Platt, Antoni Sufek, Stephen Turner, Raf Vanderstraeten, Per Wisselgren

Organizing Committee:

- * Marta Bucholc, Jarosław Kiliński, João Marcelo Ehlert Maia, Jakub Motrenko (Secretary), Joanna Wawrzyniak

Conference Venue:

2016 RCHS interim conference will take place on 6 through 8 of July, 2016, in the building of College of Liberal Arts of the University of Warsaw, situated at Dobra 72. A map can be found at the conference website: <http://www.is.uw.edu.pl/monuments-and-revivals>

Call for papers

During three days of conference proceedings in Warsaw, a hectic building site of collective memory since the 1989 breakthrough, we would like to discuss the memory of social sciences, and we suggest “Monuments, relics and revivals” to be the main themes of our meeting.

Monuments are figures, works, concepts and ideas which are impressive and overwhelming, but no longer alive. Nevertheless, they continue to occupy a substantial area of our understanding of the history of social science. We leave that area untouched for fear of trespassing. We let the monuments be, because our theoretical habits and research practices evolve around them. Their centrality endows them with a splendour of uncontested timelessness. We invite you to think about monuments in various sociological traditions, the ways in which they are erected and demolished, their stubborn resistance to time and their volatile, malleable meanings.

Despite their semantic flexibility, sometimes monuments are wrecked and their traces wiped out. But they may also linger, useless but not quite forgotten. The reasons may vary from intellectual laziness, conservative mindset of subsequent generations, political demands of the moment, retrospective affirmative actions in the history of thought and many others. The result, however, is always the same: in every époque of social thought, there are relics. They might be holy relics, sanctified by a long standing common practice or raised to sacrum in a spur of a moment. They might be monuments of old, just deprived of their centrality by a new turn of the tide. But they may also be leftovers of previous ideas, which we do not incorporate into our own, but which we are reluctant to get rid of completely.

However, besides monuments and relics, which are residual, there are also ideas and theories which we find in the past precisely in order to grant them new vitality by including them in our present. Revivification of the old is a constant process in any academic practice. But those revivals which are consciously planned and carried out may best demonstrate the multiple potential of sociological tradition. From a historian’s point of view, a revival is usually both preposterous and anachronistic. Nonetheless, in every revival, the historical perspective comes to the fore. We believe that our times are marked by a general tendency to revive portions of our intellectual past and to reinterpret them in the spirit of contemporary debates, and would welcome your insights on this intellectual tendency.

The list of paper sessions include:

1. Histories of Sociology in the Global South (organizers: Fran Collyer and João Marcelo E. Maia)
2. History of Sociology under State Socialism in Comparative Perspective (organizer: Matthias Duller)
3. Classification & Categorization: Historical Perspectives on the Sociological Making of Society (organizers: Léa Renard, Alexander Knoth and Theresa Wobbe)

4. Social and Institutional Conditions of Success in Sociology and the Social Sciences. Historical Case Studies (organizers: Thibaud Boncourt & Victor Karady)
5. Mainstream Sociology: More than a Spectre? (organizers: Christian Fleck, Dirk Kaesler and Christian Dayé)
6. History on the Methods of Empirical Social Research and Statistics (organizer: Irmela Gorges)
7. Sociology and War (organizers: Lukasz Dominiak and Wlodzimierz Winclawski)
8. Sociologists and Sociology: Autobiographies in the Making of the Discipline (organizer: Anurekha Chari Wagh)

A detailed description of each session (including one “Authors Meet Critics” session), together with contact data of the organizers can be found in Appendix to this call. All questions related to thematic scope of particular sessions should be sent per email directly to respective session organizers.

While abstracts designed for thematic sessions will be particularly welcome, we expressly invite other talks on topics related to the RCHS activities, and we do not set any limitations on the subject of papers. Accepted papers which are not aligned to one of the thematic sessions listed above will be accommodated in free paper sessions.

Submissions:

Each RCHS member may submit a paper until February 15th, 2016. Each submission should include:

- name, affiliation and contact data of the speaker
- title of the paper
- number and title of thematic session, if applicable
- a short abstract (up to 200 words)

Organizing Committee and Advisory Board together with session organizers will decide upon the proposals until the 15th of March, 2016. Accepted speakers will be notified per email by the end of March 2016. Conference program will be published in **May 2016**.

Registration and Conference FEES

All participants will be required to register by the end of April, 2016, by sending an email to interim2016@is.uw.edu.pl

Conference fees will be collected upon registration. Regular fee for ISA Category A countries is EUR 60 (reduced to EUR 30 for students, PH. D. students included, and independent scholars). Regular fee for ISA Category B and C countries as well as for members of Polish Sociological Association in good standing is EUR 40 (reduced to EUR 20 for students, PH. D. students included, and independent scholars). Membership in Polish Sociological Association is open to all interested parties; for details please contact Jarosław Kiliński (kiliński@chello.pl).

Further details regarding payment of conference fees, reaching the conference venue, suggested accommodation, free-time and sightseeing opportunities, and conference dinner will be distributed per emails and on conference website (<http://www.is.uw.edu.pl/monuments-and-revivals>).

Should you have any questions regarding this call, please contact the conference Secretary, Jakub Motrenko, at interim2016@is.uw.edu.pl

All presenters of papers in any session organized by the RCHS are expected to be or become members of the RCHS. To non-RCHS members: should you like to present a paper please join the RCHS first. Please contact João Marcelo Ehlert Maia at joao.maia@fgv.br with all your inquiries. RCHS membership fee is only 30 USD for 4 years (and 15 USD for students and non-OECD countries).

Appendix: session descriptions

Session 1- Histories of Sociology in the Global South

ORGANIZER(S): Fran Collyer and João Marcelo E. Maia

CONTACT: fran.collyer@sydney.edu.au, joao.maia@fgv.br

ABSTRACT: History of sociology has been mostly a European subject - we know a lot about sociologists, ideas and concepts produced in Europe and the US, but still lack knowledge about institutions, sociologists, journals and intellectual traditions that have emerged outside the Northern Hemisphere. This session aims to tackle this problem by exploring alternative histories of sociology from a Southern perspective. Therefore, we welcome papers that discuss sociologists and institutions from the Global South in an historical and comparative perspective or address classical topics in the field from non-traditional perspectives. We are also interested in discussing issues of the geopolitics of knowledge production and North-South relations in the history of sociology.

Session 2: History of Sociology under State Socialism in Comparative Perspective

ORGANIZER(S): Matthias Duller

CONTACT: matthias.duller@uni-graz.at

ABSTRACT: The historiography of sociology under state socialism has been dominated by perspectives that emphasize sociology's subordination to the political regimes in which it existed. While it is generally acknowledged that the national histories of sociology in the 'Eastern bloc' vary greatly between countries and periods, analytically careful comparative studies are still vastly absent. As a consequence, few of the persistent claims about the deficiencies of East European sociology, including its lack of autonomy, ideological distortions, theoretical and methodological bias, or the role of censorship and dissidence, have become the object of systematic empirical studies.

This call invites authors to propose conceptual and/or empirical papers that help make claims about the peculiarities of East European sociology under socialism empirically researchable questions of inquiry, preferably *but not necessarily* through comparative approaches. Besides the themes already mentioned possible topics include:

- the relation between political regimes and sociology or sociologists respectively;
- the different roles of sociological research at universities, academies of science and party affiliated research institutes;
- the role of historical turning points;
- the role of sociological traditions;
- the relation between sociology and social reform;
- international contacts of East European sociologists (East-East; East-West);
- the reception of classical and contemporary western sociology in Eastern Europe;
- the relative distribution of theoretical and methodological paradigms;
- the legacy of socialism for East European sociology today.

These and other themes can be addressed within:

- comparisons between sociologies in two or more countries of the Eastern bloc;
- comparisons between sociologies in socialist and capitalist countries;
- comparisons of instances within a single country;
- single case studies as long as they involve explicit discussion about conceptual issues that allow for comparison in principle.

Session 3: Classification & Categorization: Historical Perspectives on the Sociological

ORGANIZER(S): Léa Renard, Alexander Knoth and Theresa Wobbe

CONTACT: lea.renard@iepg.fr

ABSTRACT: Historical analysis can be applied to all kinds of technical, administrative, scientific, and practical classifications (Desrosières 2010). By building groups of disparate things, categorization, as a core cognitive mechanism, tends to order things in relation to each other, and thus to create hierarchical systems. In the last decades, many studies have focused on the use and the construction of social categories (gender, race) in various social spheres (administration, politics) but only a few on the contribution of science, and especially of sociology, in the production of classification systems. These classification schemes not only reflect reality but also contribute to the production of social order.

The goal of the session is to reflect on the role played by sociological categories, as 'building blocks', in the construction of society. The session welcomes empirical studies investigating either (1) classification and categorization as scientific practices, or (2) the social knowledge included in categories as scientific products.

Session 4: Social and Institutional Conditions of Success in Sociology and the Social Sciences Historical Case Studies

ORGANIZER(S): Thibaud Boncourt & Victor Karady

CONTACT: t.boncourt@gmail.com; karadyv@ceu.hu

ABSTRACT: The history of social sciences is commonly told as that of a succession of 'founding fathers' and 'great authors', of dominant paradigms and methods. These 'monuments', however, did not become so prominent necessarily because they were intrinsically better than rival scientists and ideas. Rather, their dominance was the combined product of sociological dynamics of intellectual achievements, their organized dissemination and communication in established networks, the promotional backing of academic institutions, their place within symbolic hierarchies of cultural power and the impact power relations between competing scholarly clusters.

This panel aims to gather papers that look at the various processes by which landmark authors and ideas became recognised as such. Contributions will include studies of institutional developments, the social and academic conditions promoting specific paradigms, patterns of diffusion of prominent authors across national and disciplinary boundaries (like Foucault or Bourdieu) and ways in which paradigms happened to 'win' controversies against rival ones. The studies presented will also touch upon the 'objective' effects of basic socio-historical variables of elite formation and success as well as professional creativity like gender, social recruitment, residential background, language skills, institutional contacts, place of practice, international networks, etc.

This panel proposal is submitted as part of the INTERCO-SSH research project, which is concerned with the intellectual and institutional history of the social sciences in Europe (<http://interco-ssh.eu/>).

Session 5: Mainstream Sociology: More than a Spectre?

ORGANIZER(S): Christian Fleck, Dirk Kaesler and Christian Dayé

CONTACT: christian.daye@aau.at

ABSTRACT: “Mainstream sociology” is a slick and amorphous term. Very generally, it refers to the adherents of a specific paradigm that dominates the discourses of the discipline simply because its adherents are the majority. But what is more, mainstream sociology is a critical notion because it claims that the majority simply follows the well-trodden paths. The implied allegation is that those in the majority are not innovative, but confined in their thinking by rules they do not engage with critically – they just go with the flow. Mainstream sociologists are, in a Kuhnian sense, mere puzzle-solvers.

The fact that this allegation can, in principle, be uttered by both sociologists from the top-end and from the lower levels of academic hierarchies discerns the notion of “mainstream sociology” from the notion of a sociological elite, although, as Calhoun and VanAntwerpen have shown, the term “mainstream sociology” has de facto been used in the United States mainly by those from the lower levels to attack a perceived elite – the Fat Cat sociologists of the later 1960s. But has something like mainstream sociology ever existed – nationally, or globally? Is it only a spectre, a rhetorical device in the battles over the discipline, or can it be of use as an analytical category in writing the history of sociology?

Session 6: History on the Methods of Empirical Social Research and Statistics

ORGANIZER(S): Irmela Gorges

CONTACT: i.gorges@fhvr-berlin.de

ABSTRACT: Contributions are welcome that discuss the development of methods of empirical social research or statistics in all countries and all continents of the world. Especially welcome are papers describing and analyzing the development of methods in front of the social, economic or political situation of the country or location that was investigated.

The session is linked to the network on the history of empirical social research and statistics.

Session 7: Sociology and War

ORGANIZER(S): Lukasz Dominiak and Wlodzimierz Winclawski

CONTACT: lukasz@umk.pl, winc@umk.pl

ABSTRACT: We would like to invite all the interested persons to participate in the session focusing on the topic of war both as the subject matter of social scientific research and as a factor that determines activities and writings of sociologists, psychologists, pedagogues and broadly understood intellectuals. Our aim is to point out to the field of study somewhat neglected in academic works or dealt with simply in categories of material and human loss. However, it is known that even under war conditions (including dislocations, military mobilization, occupation, imprisonments) academic activity was continued, and it is the specificity of such academic activity that we would like to capture. As interesting contributions will be social studies devoted to war as such as well as to racial or national wars. The latter studies are not very frequent and usually constitute this body of knowledge which seems to be subject of collective and individual oblivion. These not commonly known issues will be discussed at sessions of the Research Committee on History of Sociology Interim Conference.

Session 8: 'Sociologists and Sociology: Autobiographies in the Making of the Discipline

ORGANIZER(S): Anurekha Chari Wagh

CONTACT: anurekhachariwagh@gmail.com

ABSTRACT: The session will explore to what extent reflexive exercises of sociologists help to define and shape the discipline. The concept of 'self' here describes how sociologists critically engage with their own autobiographical accounts. We thus seek to understand to what extent the professional identity of sociologists is structured through sociologists' personal identities and whether engaging with one's self in terms of autobiographies plays a role in shaping of the discipline of sociology. The session will explore the following research questions:

1. To what extent professional (department, college, university, research center) and personal (race, class, caste, religion, gender etc) locations of sociologists define and structure the manner in which these individuals engage with their discipline?
2. Are professional ethics and the personal identity of a sociologist to be understood as opposite forces?
3. How do sociologists address their personal identities while teaching, researching and performing public intervention?
4. What challenges emerge when an upper class male (or female) sociologist studies and teaches such research issues as Black feminism? Are such questions valid sociological inquiries?
5. Do such questions strengthen the making of the discipline of sociology? If yes, then how do we deal with such issues in our classrooms and in the process of knowledge construction? Do we need to ask ourselves these questions?

Session 9: AUTHORS MEET CRITICS

Book: Christian Dayé & Stephan Moebius (eds.): *Soziologiegeschichte. Wege und Ziele*. Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp 2015.

Organizer: Christian Dayé

Contact: christian.daye@aau.at

Why are sociologists concerned with the history of their own discipline? Is it out of academic solipsism and vanity, or do societies need histories that are concerned with the ways in which they reflect upon themselves? And if the latter is true, how to write such histories? Questions like these are addressed in a recent collection of essays that brings together scholars like Andrew Abbott, Charles Camic, Christian Fleck, Dirk Kaesler, Donald N. Levine, Jennifer Platt, Karl-Siegbert Rehberg and George Steinmetz. However, as the editors acknowledge, the book does not provide simple answers to these questions. Rather, it documents some ongoing debates in sociology's historiography and opens a few new directions to address these. Having this in mind, what could be the next tasks? Where are the shortcomings of the book, what has it overlooked? This panel brings together the editors and some of the authors with selected critics with the intent to open the debate to the audience after an initial phase. Confirmed participants are Marta Bucholc and Andreas Hess as critics; Christian Fleck and Dirk Kaesler representing the authors; and the editors, Christian Dayé and Stephan Moebius.

A Durkheimian Library in Brazil

Márcia Consolim, Rafael Benthien and Raquel Weiss

The collection “Durkheimian Library”, coordinated by Rafael Benthien and Raquel Weiss is an initiative from the Brazilian Centre for Durkheimian Studies aiming to publish key-texts of the French Sociological School in Brazil. The first two volumes will be published by EDUSP (Editora da Universidade de São Paulo) on February 2016. The main purpose of this project is to establish a critical edition of texts which provide a comprehensive understanding of this School as a whole, what implies editing not just well-known works from Durkheim and Mauss, but also texts authored by Meillet and Hubert. We have organized six volumes so far (three more are on the publishing schedule), bringing together twenty-one scholars from seventeen institutions in Brazil, France, England and Spain. Here is the list of these six volumes:

- 1.Émile Durkheim. L'Individualisme et les Intellectuels. [Organized by Márcia Consolim, Márcio de Oliveira and Raquel Weiss]
- 2.Henri Hubert. Étude sommaire de la représentation du temps dans la religion et la magie [Organized by Miguel Palmeira, Rafael Benthien and Rodrigo Turin]
- 3.Antoine Meillet. Comment les mots changent de sens. [Organized by Miguel Palmeira and Rafael Benthien]
- 4.Marcel Mauss. L'origine des pouvoirs magiques dans les sociétés australiennes. [Organized by Ari Oro, Rafael Benthien and Raquel Weiss]
- 5.Marcel Mauss. Rapports réels et pratiques de la psychologie et de la sociologie [Organized by Márcia Consolim, Noemí Pizarroso and Raquel Weiss]
- 6.François Simiand. La monnaie réalité sociale. [Organized by Rafael Benthien, José Benevides and Carlos Lima].

Each one of this volume contains a bilingual and critical edition of the main text. We compared every published edition of the text authored by the sociologist during his/her lifetime, marking all the relevant changes and inserting the original page from the chosen standard edition (usually the last one published). Besides the footnotes aimed at elucidating the text, we also provide a commentary section and an appendix. In the commentary section, scholars address issues related to the main text, ranging from the historical context of the writings to its contemporary effects, according to the particular expertise of each author. Besides these articles there is also a bio-biography section outlining the main historical facts and a bibliographic list for each author. The appendix brings primary documents such as book reviews dated from the original publishing context, letters and pictures. Every volume concludes with an analytical index with quoted authors and concepts.

The Durkheimian Library initiative is based on the idea that many answers for understanding an author cannot be found in the text itself. Therefore, providing an annotated scholarly edition to each text allows a better informed reading. Another assumption is that intellectual work is not an isolated task carried by exceptional individuals, but a collective entrepreneurship connecting various institutions – such as journals or scientific associations – and other networks comprised of divergent groups. That is why the commentary section can shed some light on the historical contextualization of the text, by performing the following functions: minimizing the gaps of information about the intellectual environment; presenting a map of the social and intellectual relationships which shaped authorship; providing tools to enable the critical dialogue with the history of the text's reception; and allowing an overview of the intellectual work as a

collective and regulated practice, in which cooperation and controversy play a key role.

In order to deal with multiple sources and thus establish the corpus, we excluded everything not directly related to the main text, however interesting it might be. Another important point is the production of a kind of topographic map of knowledge and authors sharing the same setting, which allows the reader to recover forgotten meanings of the texts and to avoid false hierarchies based on contemporary ideas about "important" authors.

We wish we could contribute to a sociological history of the social science by demonstrating that no text is classical by the time it was originally published, given the different functions it performs over time and the plurality of meanings it conveys. With this collection we expect to contribute to the autonomy of the discipline, by presenting the key-texts not as dead objects, but as living ones that embody ideas, social relationships, thoughts and hierarchies in a condensed way. Therefore, we hope contemporary social scientists could ask new questions to the "classics", not just learning about theory, but also analyzing the relationship between intellectual life and scientific production.

Ten years teaching History of Sociology in Argentina

Diego Pereyra

In 2006, just after finishing my doctoral studies at the University of Sussex, I was invited to deliver a summer seminar on the history of sociology in Argentina at the Sociology Department of the University of Buenos Aires. That degree course was attended astonishingly by more than 50 undergraduates. Almost ten years later, the seminar still remains in the list of subjects. Two of those students are now taking postdoctoral courses, working as assistant teachers in the seminar and applying in their own research both theoretical and methodological tools learnt and discussed within the local field of the history of sociology. That movement opened a gate to new activities in which many people were involved. This could sound banal or balladlike but it is a remarkable teaching and investigative experience worthy to be shared.

One decade after those pivotal lectures, a lot of water has flowed under the bridge of sociology in Argentina. The seminar is offered alternatively in summer or autumn terms for last year students, nevertheless. In nine years, 160 undergraduates approved the course and 38 students received research credits for their essays. Besides the seminar is still optional, students and colleagues have started gradually but firmly regarding it as a great contribution. It has doubtless helped to train young sociologists with skills of reflecting upon both the history of the discipline in the country and the impact of national traditions.

The course intervened in a space plenty of narrations and myths but lacked of systematic historical interpretations. The main focus is the integration of cognitive and institutional factors in the explanation on the evolution of sociological ideas in Argentina. Hence, these teaching activities have two main goals: First, to tell a long term history of the discipline in the country, identifying and classifying the role and influences of different local sociological traditions. Second, to study the problematic professionalization of sociology in Argentina.

The idea is to outdo the mere name of history of sociology and to replace it by the term sociological history of sociology, which means a perspective able to think a structural history of contexts, institutions, practices and discourses of local sociologists. Many students claimed the subject name was somehow boring (and started using better the abbreviation HSSA, as initials in Spanish) so some years ago it was changed, following a better branding reformulation.

Now the list of undergraduate courses in the department of sociology offers one named Sociologists, intellectuals, experts and militants: doing a sociological history of sociology in Argentina. Throughout the years, reading lists have changed and updated, also incorporating own material; some teachers came and gone but focus and general scheme maintained almost inalterable. Bibliography recovers references to the history of sociology in different countries, counting different authors such as Jennifer Platt, Edward Shils, Laurent Mucchielli and Duncan Mitchell, but the bulk of the material refers to Argentinean past experience, including primary sources, empirical research and historical interpretations, from the 1890s to nowadays.

All these actions were not however strictly related with classroom affairs. Lectures are linked with research and interaction with other groups interested in the subject. Scholars involved in the seminar activities have been also actively taking part since 2004 in the Research Committee on History of Sociology of the Professional Council of Sociology in Buenos Aires. Due to political problems, the group moved last year to the Gino Germani Research Institute which a Study Group on History and Teaching of Sociology (GEHES, by its initials in Spanish) was created, and I was designated its coordinator. This group gathers around 20 people, including undergraduate and postgraduate students, sociologists, historians and specialists in education, all who promote the debate on history of teaching and practice of sociology. Its goal is to study the institutionalization of sociology in Argentina, identifying ruptures and continuities and exploring intellectual, political and social factors that have influenced academic and professional trajectories of local sociologists. Thus, the GEHES- HSSA (recovering in some way the other colloquial acronym) proposes a reflection upon the originality and potential of sociological perspective to puzzle out present social challenges, opening a discussion of the development and the situation of sociological field in Argentina and looking for singularities, problems and tensions, in comparative terms.

For many years, the group was a space in which different projects and research experiences were discussed, offering synergic interaction the production of articles and supervision of students and young scholars. Its Facebook fan- page has more than 1.500 followers. Every each year, the group and guest speakers met at some academic meeting to discuss papers and general ideas. The event is so-called 'Historia de Cronopios y Famas', paying tribute to Julio Cortazar's work and the sociological references of their characters. Last meeting was in July, next has been programmed for December, next year; though, we are looking for financial assistance in order to increase visibility and to cause a better stir. Also, once a month, members of the GEHES- HSSA come across the way to the institute to follow up student essays and dissertations and to discuss papers drafts or works in progress. Moreover, the group organises frequently different postgraduate seminars, panels, conferences or informal meeting with colleagues and invited scholars for debate.

All these activities have accompanied the maturing of the field of history of sociology in Argentina. The increasing production of articles and postgraduate dissertations on the topic undoubtedly improved the knowledge of different institutional experiences, diverse authors' ideas and intellectual legacies. Altogether, that work offers a better empirical material that could orient theoretical discussions and global interpretation of the past, but also a superior comprehension of the present situation and problems of sociology in Argentina. Alongside the effort made by other investigation groups and local authors such as Alejandro Blanco and Fernanda Beigel, teaching and research produced by the GEHES- HSSA in the last ten years participated in an active debate, which have likely changed the panorama of the local history of sociology. The two old visions (one evolutionist and rupture- based the other) that dominated the field until one or two decade ago were abandoned, emerging a new interpretation that takes into account more complex factors. . So, now textbooks are incorporating ideas from the innovative narration. This new history is opened to discussion but offers some consensual lines.

In this way, the key institutional factors have been moved back from the 1950s to the 1940s. Also, the pioneering and foundational role of Gino Germani has been questioned; although his actions are still valued by historians, his name is not anymore and untouchable figure of the podium or an unpronounceable sin able to send you away directly to hell. Thus, the time previous to foundation of Sociology Department in 1957 (usually known as Before Germani) emerged as a time worthy of attention. In addition, many young researchers started re-examining catholic and nationalistic traditions from a new outlook, exceeding both generational tales and political- based interpretations; that is clear in the fresh research about the "Cátedras nacionales" [national chairs] during the 1970s.

As well, improving methodological and theoretical tools have shown a less schematic history. This allowed just recently that sociologists from different traditions could see better their own personal and institutional experiences and they exercised some interactions between diverse political and intellectual legacies within local sociology. Furthermore, new facts from the institutional experiences in different provinces and regions have revealed a most enriched picture, surpassing a vision extremely cantered in Buenos Aires. Lastly, recent research has contributed to better understand the relation between sociology and literature in the country, revaluing authors and texts that academic sociology had considered as sociological demons. A healthier treatment of such ideas could be illuminating. So, the expansion of postgraduate studies in sociology and increasing funding backed up all these movements, but long term democracy and the stability of local university bureaucracy also helped, along with a creative reception of epistemological debate in which positivism and humanism are not mutually exclusive within sociology. I hope that the GEHES- HSSA has been and could still being in future a key actor the new foundation of the history of Argentina.

Current Research Projects in which GEHES- HSSA members are involved:

Sociología, planificación y universidad en el desarrollismo argentino. Un estudio sobre el proyecto de educación superior en el CONADE (1964- 1973). IIGG- CONICET, 2014-2015.

¿De qué trabajaron los primeros sociólogos en Argentina? Un estudio sobre la inserción profesional de las primeras generaciones de graduados en sociología... (1961- 1984), IIGG, 2013-2015.

Diseñar la Nueva Argentina: el Estado peronista, la burocracia técnica y la planificación (1944- 1955), PIP CONICET, Universidad Nacional del Centro, Tandil, 2014- 2016.

Los que mandan en el Estado. Los elencos del gobierno nacional (1973-2015), Universidad de Buenos Aires, 2015- 2016.

Memoria histórica y cultura conmemorativa: Himnos, marchas y Rock and roll. Los centenarios patrios de 1910 y del 2010..., Universidad de Buenos Aires, 2015- 2016.

Cartografía curricular de la Sociología: Relevamiento de la situación de enseñanza de la sociología en la escuela secundaria en Argentina, Universidad de Buenos Aires, 2015- 2016.

Entre la burocracia y la democracia educativa: configuraciones de la gestión de la inclusión social en un nivel educativo de tradición selectiva, IIGG- CONICET, 2015- 2017.

Key texts in the history of sociology in Argentina (2006- 2015)**Books:**

Beigel, Fernanda, (ed) *The Politics of Academic Autonomy in Latin America*, Ashgate, Farnham, 2013.

Blanco, Alejandro, *Razón y Modernidad. Gino Germani y la sociología en Argentina*, [Reason and modernity. Gino Germani and sociology in Argentina], Siglo XXI, Buenos Aires, 2006.

Blanco, Alejandro y Luiz Jackson, *Sociología en el espejo*, [Sociology in the mirror], Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, Buenos Aires, 2015.

González Bollo Hernán, *La teodicea estadística de Alejandro E. Bunge (1880-1943)*, [The statistical theodicy of Alejandro Bunge (1880- 1943)], Imago Mundi, Buenos Aires, 2012.

Mera, Carolina y Julián Rebón (eds), *Gino Germani, la sociedad en cuestión*, [Gino Germani, questioning society], CLACSO, Buenos Aires, 2010.

Pereyra, Diego (ed) *El desarrollo de las ciencias sociales. Tradiciones, actores e instituciones en Argentina, Chile, México y Centroamérica*, [The development of social sciences. Traditions, actors and institutions in Argentina, Chile and Central America], FLACSO, San José de Costa Rica, 153, 2010.

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On the Method's Disappearance: Analysis between philosophies of social contract and classical sociologies. A Study in Epistemology

Jan Maršálek

The volume I submitted last May, in Paris, to the board of examiners in the hope of obtaining a PhD degree in philosophy (from Université de Franche-Comté, France) and sociology (from Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, in a joint doctoral programme)¹, comes only in a particular sense under the label of history of sociology. What does history in the history of sociology consist of? In my work, I tackle this question with reference to the French epistemologist G. Canguilhem: the history's task is not to repeat the path pursued by science it examines; the historian is rather entitled to assign his or her own research object.

As for me, the research object I have chosen can be seen as historical. It is the variation of the epistemological status of the "analysis" within the work of four distinguished and well-studied authors who represent four milestones in European social and political theory: Hobbes, Rousseau, Spencer and Durkheim. Having the status of a method in the philosophies of the social contract of Thomas Hobbes and, partly, of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the analysis "disappears", as I try to show, as it 'continues' to structure in a tacit way the work of Herbert Spencer and Émile Durkheim, both of them founders of scientific sociology.

To concentrate on this particular phenomenon of a method's disappearing situates my work in a relation of a doubly disloyal continuity with regard to the French epistemological tradition, which I invoke repeatedly with high respect, and which is largely preoccupied with the formation of scientific concepts. In a more general manner, I defy the traditional tendency of the philosophy of sciences to focus on the processes of construction, invention, genealogy, coming into being, etc., that it clearly prefers to the process of extinction, as if the creation alone demanded huge efforts, whereas the overcoming and the disappearance was effortless, straightforward and, at best, instantaneous. However, I do not simply substitute the passing away to the origin, the breakdown to the genesis, and more generally the "movement from" to the "movement towards". Regardless of the direction followed, I identify a new modality of a "movement" of epistemological entities such as "analysis"; that means, concretely, a change of its epistemological status.

Choosing analysis as my research object allowed me to bring together authors who seldom meet, and to commit several transgressions ready to unsettle my readers. First of all, it is a long version of the history of social science that my work stipulates. To be sure, Hobbes and Rousseau are sometimes regarded as sociology's precursors; but I am blind even to this category of politeness. I don't really feel the necessity of conceptualizing the disciplinary affiliation of my authors. More generally, I pay relatively little attention to their social and political doctrines; it is to the method that my approach gives priority. It does not prevent my analysis from interfering with interpretative orthodoxies.

The first impetus to group together my four authors (five, in fact, with Ferdinand Tönnies on the sociological side of my corpus, who is nevertheless treated only auxiliary in my work) was formal: Is the hypothesis that, in the 19th century, the analysis manifests itself in the sociology's common recourse to 'historic dualisms', tenable? (Part II of my dissertation) Conceptual pairings such as mechanical/organic solidarity (Durkheim), military/industrial society (Spencer), Gemeinschaft/Gesellschaft (Tönnies), contain an assumed notion of transparency that, in fact, has to be denied.

After the discussion of the methodological nature of the social contract theories and, more generally, of the 'analytical' epistemology of the Enlightenment (Part III), I consider Hobbes and Rousseau in a moderate 'monographic' fashion. Hobbes makes his own epistemological principles explicit (in *De Corpore*, 1655), and because he openly claims to adhere to the analytical method, he occupies a position of choice in my work (Part IV). An epistemological

reading of Leviathan (1651) leads to the elucidation of the methodological status of the 'history' in the construction of the State that the natural man cannot but wish for. It is in this necessity that the Hobbesian analysis finds its rule.

Rousseau (Part V), for his part, speaks little of his method. Admittedly the method of analysis is widely discussed in his *Chemical Institutions* (between 1747 and 1754), but Rousseau does not seem to intend to offer any general conclusions borne therefrom. The examination of the second *Discourse* (1755), *Essay on the Origin of Languages* (1781, posthumous edition) and *Social Contract* (1762), leads however to the conclusion that Rousseau is actually indebted to the analytical method. The principle of equivalence being its rule, Rousseau's analysis is distinct from its previously identified Hobbesian version. I therefore conclude that although assimilated, in both cases, to the operation of 'subtraction' and 'addition', the analysis does not receive, from Hobbes and Rousseau, a common interpretation (Part VI).

The Industrial Age assumes a new epistemological rigor. Also Herbert Spencer's and Émile Durkheim's critiques of the philosophies of social contract are firm. And nevertheless, they are not inflexible (Part VII). In fact, the work of analysis can be identified even in their own writings. Strictly speaking, neither the sociology of Spencer (Part VIII) nor that of Durkheim (Part IX) contradict the governing rules of the ancient science. These rules are nonetheless importantly modified: in the works of the two sociologists, the epistemological status of the analysis is altered. What was, for Hobbes and Rousseau, a method (associated with a concept of knowledge), newly 'became' a matrix (Spencer's *Principles of Sociology*), a promise (Durkheim's *Elementary Forms of Religious Life*), and a demonstrative strategy (Durkheim's *Division of Labor in Society*). Such shifts, which are always irregular as they distort the primitive rule, constitute 'epistemological events' whose impact is potentially as invigorating as devastating.

By introducing the term of "epistemological event", I hope to open the door to a thorough investigation of the "fine structure" (Giulio Giorello) of the dynamics of science. There is no doubt, the disappearance of analysis, the downfall of its status, represents but a single episode in the large flow of scientific river. However, the study of such an "epistemological detail", as Bachelard would say, seems to me powerful enough to generate knowledge that won't be considered a meagre detail in epistemology.

Notes

¹ Under the supervision of Professors Frédéric Brahami, Miloslav Petrušek (†) and Jan Balon. Original title: *De la disparition d'une méthode: l'Analyse entre les philosophies du contrat social et les sociologies classiques. Étude d'épistémologie*, 536 pages, in French with Czech summary. Defended on May 28, 2015 at École Normale Supérieure, Paris, France.

Recent (2013-2015) Reviews of Books on the History of Sociology – and the books reviewed

Charles Crothers

Sociological Abstracts has a wide coverage of Sociology and Sociology-related journals so that retrieval of the reviews relating to the history of sociology should be an important way of identifying recent book scholarship in this field, in the absence of good bibliographical coverage of books. Given the subject classification used by Sociological Abstracts it is possible to narrow down the titles considered to be relevant although history of sociology also includes works on the present state of sociology, and – it turned out on closer examination – quite a few books that seemed to be historical sociology. So the search had to be culled by hand to exclude these, although without abstracts this further step meant reliance on titles alone.

The entries comprise: title of review, author of review, citation characteristics of the review and author-title-date of publication of the book reviewed. Some 34 works seemed to fall in this range. Given that reviews lag behind the books they review, any listing is inevitably recently but not immediately published. A variety of different types of books covering a range of subject matter were found, and perhaps this is the leading impression of diversity.

Listing:

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Society 52 1 105-110 2015

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Edling, Christofer

Journal of Classical Sociology 14 2 247-250 2014

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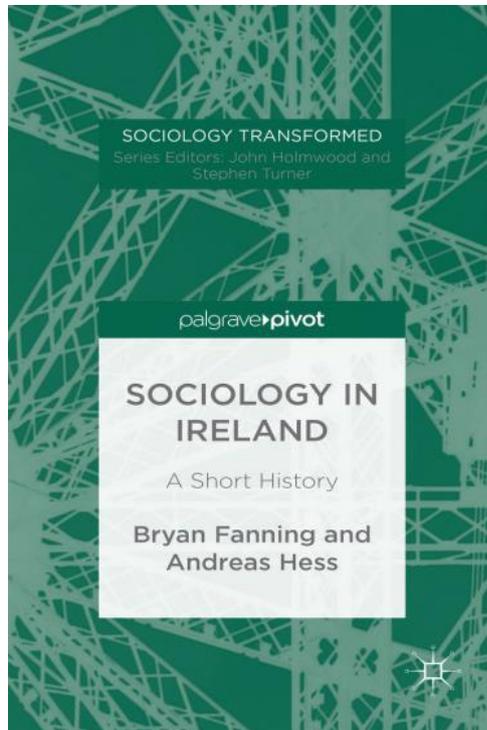
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Orjan Appelqvist

The Political of Gunnar Myrdal. Transcending Dilemmas Post-2008. London; New York: Routledge, 2014. No 179 in *Routledge of Political Economy*.

Reviewed by: Syen Eliaeson, Research Fellow at Uppsala Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies and Recurrent visiting professor in Sociolog, Sweden.

Books and Edited Volumes**Sociology in Ireland: a short history**

Authors: Bryan Fanning and Andreas Hess

Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan

"This book provides a short introduction to the emergence and development of sociology in Ireland until the present day. While there were some early nineteenth century forerunners, the institutionalization of sociology as an academic discipline came relatively late. For a long time the development of sociology was strongly influenced by the Catholic Church, and Catholic sociology remained the dominant paradigm until a slow secularization process phased this out. From the 1970s onwards the discipline witnessed periods of growth and professionalization. However, these development and achievements were never conflict-free and by the mid 1980s, sociology in Ireland entered a period of critical self-reflection in which old established paradigms were questioned and new themes and topics emerged.

Bryan Fanning is Professor in the School of Applied Social Science at University College Dublin, Ireland. He has published extensively on the impact of immigration on Irish society. His books include *The Quest for Modern Ireland: The Battle of Ideas 1912-1986* (2008), *Racism and Social Change in the Republic of Ireland: 2nd Edition* (2012) and *Histories of the Irish Future* (2014). Andreas Hess is Senior Lecturer in Sociology at University College Dublin, Ireland and is Faculty Fellow at Yale's Center for Cultural Sociology. His interests are mainly in the fields of cultural sociology and the sociology of ideas. His latest publication is *The Political Theory of Judith N. Shklar: Exile from Exile* (2014)."

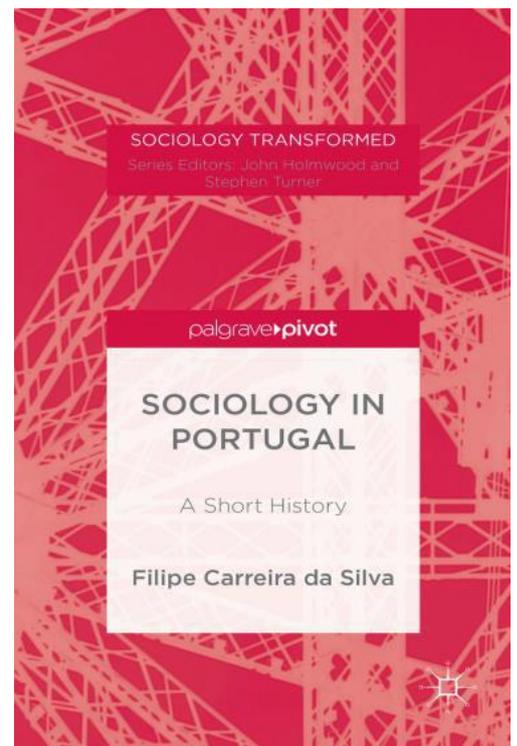
Sociology in Portugal: a short history

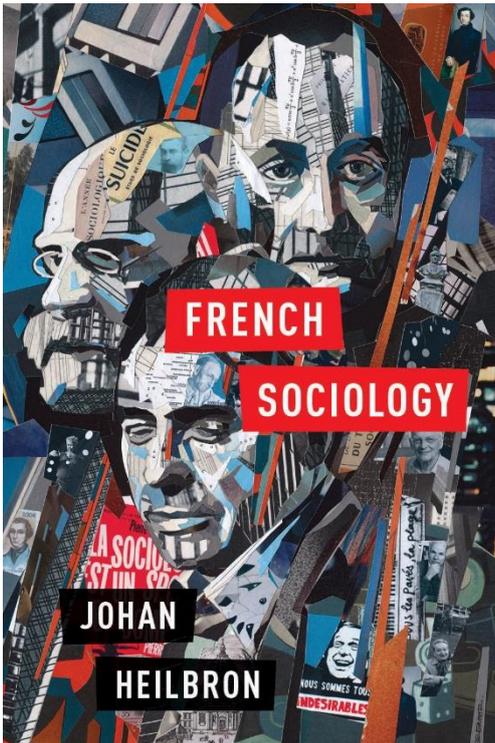
Author: Filipe Carreira da Silva

Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan

"Sociology in Portugal provides the first English-language account of the history of sociology in Portugal from 1945 to the present day. Banned by the fascist regime until 1974, the institutionalization of sociology as an academic discipline came relatively late. Understanding academic disciplines as institutionalized struggles over meaning, Filipe Carreira da Silva gives a genealogy of sociology in Portugal from its origins in the political-administrative interstices of a dictatorship, through the 'cyclopean moment' of the political revolution of April 1974, which brought about its swift institutionalization and subsequent consolidation in the new democratic regime, to the challenges posed by internationalization since the 1990s. Attempts to define Portugal itself, he demonstrates, have been at the heart of these struggles. Analyzing agents, institutions, contexts, instruments and ideas, Carreira da Silva shows in fascinating detail how the sociological understanding of Portugal evolved from that of a developing society in the 1960s, to that of a modernizing European social formation in the 1980s, to the post-colonial or post-imperial Portugal of today.

Filipe Carreira da Silva is Research Fellow at the Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal. He is also a Fellow of Selwyn College, University of Cambridge, UK. He has held visiting positions at Harvard, Chicago and Yale. In 2010, his book *Mead and Modernity* was awarded the ASA's Distinguished Book Award."





French Sociology

Author: Johan Heilbron

Publisher: Ithaca/London: Cornell University Press, 2015, 271 p.

French Sociology offers a comprehensive view of the oldest and still one of the most vibrant national traditions in sociology. Covering the development of sociology in France from its very beginnings in the early nineteenth century through the discipline's expansion in the late twentieth century, it traces the careers of figures from Comte to Bourdieu. Heilbron not only presents fresh interpretations of renowned thinkers, he includes a host of less well known figures, and examines how the groups and networks they formed contributed to renewals across a broad spectrum of the human sciences.

This study recounts the halting process by which sociology evolved from a new and rather 'improbable science' into a legitimate academic discipline. Having entered the academic field at the end of the nineteenth century, sociology developed along two separate tracks: one in the Faculty of Letters, engendering an enduring dependence on philosophy and the humanities, the other in research institutes outside of the university, in which sociology evolved within and across more specialized research areas. Distinguishing different dynamics and various cycles of change, Heilbron portrays the ways in which individuals and groups maneuvered within this changing structure, competing for opportunities as they arose. *French Sociology* depicts the promises and pitfalls of a discipline, which – although often poorly understood – is one of the most interdisciplinary endeavors among the human sciences in France.

The Social Scientific Gaze: the social question and the rise of the academic social science in Sweden

Author: Per Wisselgren

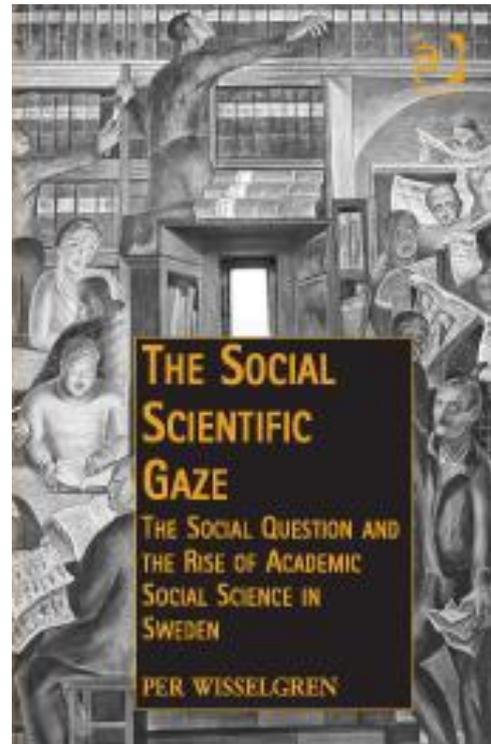
Publisher: Ashgate (due to be published on December 2015)

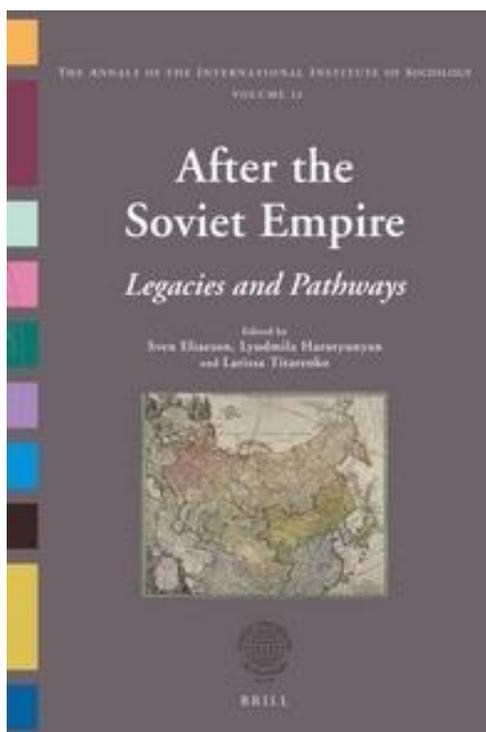
The social sciences have, ever since they were first established as academic disciplines, played a foundational role in most spheres of modern society - in policy-making, education, the media and public debate - and hence also, indirectly, for our self-understanding as social beings.

The *Social Scientific Gaze* examines the discursive formation of academic social science in the historical context of the 'social question', that is, the protracted and wide-ranging discussions on the social problems of modernity that were being debated with increased intensity during the nineteenth century. Empirically, the study focuses on the Lorén Foundation, a combined private funding agency and early research institute, which was set up in 1885 to promote the rise of Swedish social science and to investigate the social question. Comprising an heuristic case, the close analysis of the Foundation makes it possible not only to reconstruct its basic ideas and practices, but also to situate its activities in broader historical and sociological context.

The *Social Scientific Gaze* argues that the rise of Swedish social science may be seen not only as an 'answer' to the social 'question', but also as one attempt alongside others - including contemporary social literature, the philanthropic reform movement, and the introduction of modern social policy - to conceptualize, mobilize and regulate the social sphere. In this process it is furthermore shown how an ambiguous yet distinct 'social scientific gaze' was discursively articulated.

Contents: Introduction: the testament; The social question: arenas, actors, articulations; The international context: research and reform in Germany and Britain; Viktor Lorén: an unremarked intellectual; The board: a network and its thought style; Library and lectures: a social geography of knowledge; Surveying the social: with letters and numbers; The rise of academic social science: Wicksell, Steffen, Cassel; The social scientific gaze: between the social question and the rise of academic social science; Appendix: the Lorén Foundation's series of publications, 1890-1899; References; Index.





After the Soviet Empire Legacies and Pathways

Editors: Sven Eriasson, Uppsala University, Lyudmila Harutyunyan, Yerevan State University, and Larissa Titarenko, Belarusian State University

Publisher: Brill

The break-up of the Soviet Union is a key event of the twentieth century. The 39th IIS congress in Yerevan 2009 focused on causes and consequences of this event and on shifts in the world order that followed in its wake. This volume is an effort to chart these developments in empirical and conceptual terms. It has a focus on the lands of the former Soviet Union but also explores pathways and contexts in the Second World at large.

The Soviet Union was a full scale experiment in creating an alternative modernity. The implosion of this union gave rise to new states in search of national identity. At a time when some observers heralded the end of history, there was a rediscovery of historical legacies and a search for new paths of development across the former Second World.

In some parts of this world long-repressed legacies were rediscovered. They were sometimes, as in the case of countries in East Central Europe, built around memories of parliamentary democracy and its replacement by authoritarian rule during the interwar period. Some legacies referred to efforts at establishing statehood in the wake of the First World War, others to national upheavals in the nineteenth century and earlier.

In Central Asia and many parts of the Caucasus the cultural heritage of Islam in its different varieties gave rise to new markers of identity but also to violent contestations. In South Caucasus, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan have embarked upon distinctly different, but invariably contingent, paths of development. Analogously core components of the old union have gone through tumultuous, but until the last year and a half largely bloodless, transformations. The crystallization of divergent paths of development in the two largest republics of that union, i.e. Russia and Ukraine, has ushered in divergent national imaginations but also in series of bloody confrontations.

<http://www.brill.com/products/book/after-soviet-empire>

The 'Postmodern Turn' in the Social Sciences.

Author: Simon Sussen

Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan

The main purpose of this book is to examine the impact of the 'postmodern turn' on the contemporary social sciences. Here, the 'postmodern turn' is conceived of as a paradigmatic shift from the Enlightenment belief in the relative determinacy of both the natural world and the social world to the – increasingly widespread – post-Enlightenment belief in the radical indeterminacy of all material and symbolic forms of existence. As illustrated in this enquiry, the far-reaching importance of this paradigmatic transformation is reflected in five influential presuppositional 'turns', which have arguably been taking place in the social sciences over the past few decades and which are inextricably linked to the rise of postmodern thought: (I) the 'relativist turn' in epistemology; (II) the 'interpretive turn' in social research methodology; (III) the 'cultural turn' in sociology; (IV) the 'contingent turn' in historiography; and (V) the 'autonomous turn' in politics. On the basis of this five-dimensional approach, the study provides a systematic, comprehensive, and critical account of the legacy of the 'postmodern turn', notably in terms of its continuing relevance in the twenty-first century.

<http://www.palgrave.com/page/detail/the-postmodern-turn-in-the-social-sciences-simon-sussen/?K=9781137519795>

