

International Sociological Association
RC 20
Comparative Sociology

June 2017 Newsletter

Lons-le-Saunier: 28 June, 2017

Dear colleagues,

Here are the latest news regarding our Research Committee. Please be informed that I will be staying at Yale from September till February (just in case those of you based in North America would like to meet).

Enjoy your summer. Best wishes,

*Jean-Pascal Daloz
RC 20 President*

XIX ISA Congress of Sociology
Toronto (July 2018)
List of sessions

Program Coordinator: Professor David Weakliem (University of Connecticut),
Member of the RC 20 board.

1. Comparative Sociology: Theory and Methods

Organizer: David Weakliem, University of Connecticut

This session is open to papers on theoretical and methodological issues in comparative sociology. Papers may consider a theorist or concept, or propose or illustrate methods in comparative sociology. Papers that review and assess different theoretical or methodological approaches are also welcome.

2. Current Research in Comparative Sociology, Part 1

Organizer: Stephen Vertigans, Robert Gordon University

This session is open to papers in all areas of comparative sociology.

3. Current Research in Comparative Sociology, Part 2

This session is open to papers in all areas of comparative sociology.

Organizer: David Weakliem, University of Connecticut

4. Comparative Perspectives from Surveying the Poor in Different Countries

Organizer: Marita Carballo, Voices! Consultancy

For the first time in history, the United Nations and all member states have formally adopted a goal to end poverty by 2030, as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (or Global Goals).

In line with this and with ISA's Congress theme on Reflections and Responses to Power, Violence and Justice, this panel will explore insightful field research methodologies and policy-relevant findings related to those citizens most vulnerable to abuse and injustice – those living in poverty in countries around the world.

The GlobeScan Foundation's 'Survey of the Poor' initiative has set out to survey people living in poverty across 10 countries that house approximately 80 percent of the world's ultra-poor. This panel will discuss both methodological issues as well as key findings that suggest ways to increase the effectiveness of poverty alleviation efforts.

Such topics as the importance of empowerment, inclusiveness, trust and personal safety in understanding and unlocking poverty; as well as other ways the Survey of the Poor data can be used to further social theory and research; will be discussed in this panel.

5. Significance of Population Values, Norms and Stereotypes for Social and Political Development of Societies: Evidence from the World Values Survey

Organizer: Marita Carballo, Voices! Consultancy

The panel is aimed at exploring the ways how the World Values Survey – the world’s largest social science survey program – can contribute to the academic research on value change, convergence and divergence of value systems, development of the postmaterialist theory of value change, and also how WVS findings can be used to develop social, economic and political policies regulating our everyday life. WVS data constituting the world’s largest survey data-base in social sciences, uses an extensive set of several hundred indicators and allows to analyse value systems and norms in over 100 countries, including analysis in over-time perspective for 1981-2014. Such topics like tolerance and social exclusion, social and ethical norms, functioning of systems of public life, security, migration, civic engagement, democracy, political participation and the ways how WVS data can contribute to the enhancement of social theory and research in these and other fields, are in the centre of the discussion of this panel.

6. On Comparative Perspectives on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change

Organizer: Tom W. Smith, University of Chicago

Comparative research is always important for understanding human societies and what structures, relationships, and values are general (even universal) rather than being country or culture specific. Since environmental change is by its very nature global, a comparative perspective is especially important. Likewise, environmental change involves a complex interaction of natural and human dimensions. In particular from the human side involving both sociological and political factors and such matters as value systems and societal priorities. This session will address these issues and draw on data from such sources as the ESS, ISSP, Pew Global Surveys, and WVS.

7. Comparative and Historical Sociology of Women’s Careers

(joint session with RC32 Women in Society , RC33 Logic and Methodology in Sociology, and RC56 Historical Sociology

Organizer: Fumiya Onaka, Japan Women’s University

Gender inequality in careers such as educational attainment, occupational careers, child rearing and household duties has been a major longstanding problem. There is a lot of remarkable research on these topics. For example, the higher education gender disparity hypothesis, the glass ceiling hypothesis, work-family conflict hypothesis, and three types of career hypothesis have all been proposed and tested. However, research on these topics has been conducted mainly as single-case quantitative studies, merely comparative studies or merely historical studies; most do not relate to comparative sociology or historical sociology theories. This session intends to focus on multiple case studies, and in both historical and comparative studies, which will provide a description and explanation of the phenomena. It will also provide suggestions for policies aimed at improving this grim situation. It welcomes papers concentrating on this subject, regardless of background or conclusions.

8. Dealing with Categories in a Comparative Perspective, a Perception Issue

Organizer: Sylvain Beck, University of Paris IV-Sorbonne

This session aims to highlight the degrees of scientific knowledge across the different scales and categories of the comparison (cities, nations, professional, gendered, racial or ethnical groups). This call is for papers dealing theoretically, methodologically or empirically with issues related to the fuzzy characteristics of perception, that blur the categories.

9. Comparative Research in Migration and Citizenship Studies: Transformative Change or Status Quo Dynamics?

Organizers: Andrey Rezaev, St Petersburg State University; Peter Kivisto, Augustana College, University of Trento, and St Petersburg State University

Amidst many other "great transformations," one of the major transformations of the past century has concerned migration as social phenomenon and as an object of sociological inquiry. This Session seeks to bring together established as well as junior scholars who study socio-economic, political and cultural manifestations of migration in contemporary world to discuss a possibility and reality of comparative research focus as well as to debate new theoretical approaches to migration and citizenship studies.

The session attempts to bring together some debatable perceptions of international migration flows and seeks to foster future research into puzzling questions of migration and citizenship studies. It will be interested in discussion of prospective theoretical and methodological paths for migration studies in the XXI century. The session aims to bring up for discussion and to have as an explicit agenda the next big questions of research in migration and citizenship.

Transnational migration will be one of the primary issues for the papers to discuss. Also the proposed session aims to offer scholars an opportunity to discuss recent research findings as well as insights into best practices (and worst aspects) of field research that somehow blends migration studies, citizenship studies, and religious studies with comparative perspectives in sociology.

10. Comparative Capitalism/s: Socio-Economic and Political Developments in the Former Communist Countries of Europe and Asia after 1989

Organizer: Andrey Rezaev, St Petersburg State University

Almost thirty years after the collapse of the communism and a proclaimed victory of liberalism in the former communist countries of Europe and Asia we still know little about successes and failures of building capitalist economic and political structures and institutions. Even less sociologists are concerned with comparative perspectives and comparative researches of social exterior and initiations in the newly established countries. In other words, a comprehensive academic agenda aimed at deepening our knowledge about the post-communist dynamics is still missing. The aspiration of a projected panel is to address this gap by presenting the work of scholars reflecting on different aspects of capitalist development in order to promote systematic exchanges that would produce theoretical and empirical knowledge about the most important aspects of the post-communism social trajectories.

11. Patrimonialism: Max Weber's Ideal Type Model Revisited

Organizer: Johannes Bakker, University of Guelph

Max Weber's pure type of "traditional authority" as opposed to "goal-rational, formal-legal authority" focuses on Patriarchy and Patrimonialism. Patrimonialism is Patriarchy writ large. A Big Man or Chief is a Patriarch in a village or tribe. But a Patrimonial ruler had legitimate authority in a larger political and economic entity. One state system with Patrimonial authority prior to modern capitalism is the traditional Patrimonial Empire. The literature concerning

authoritarian regimes today does not take into account the "vestiges" of Patrimonial rulership prior to modern capitalism. Even with the emergence of modern capitalism in the sixteenth century most European overseas empires tended to still stress Patrimonial rulership in their imperial states. What is very important to consider is the oscillation of prebendal and feudal aspects of Patrimonial rulership not only in China and India but also in Europe. It is not a matter of "Oriental Despotism" or the "Asiatic Mode of Production." Weber corrected Marx on this point while nevertheless also still benefitting from the importance of studying the political economy of any social system. Weber was not a cultural determinist. His ideas concerning Patrimonialism are political economic theoretical ideas. Neo-patrimonialism is a term that Eisenstadt used and some students of Africa have referred to African states as neo-patrimonial, meaning that they are neither completely Patrimonial nor completely democratic. The new Collected Works of Max Weber (MWGA) re-arranges Weber's manuscripts in a way that is different from the editorial work done by Marianne Weber and Johannes Winckelmann after Max Weber's.

Conference Announcement

Call for Papers:

[Biography and Violence](#)

[Violent dynamics and agency in collective processes and individual life histories](#)

International Conference to be held at the Center of Methods in Social Sciences (Qualitative Methods/Professorship Rosenthal), University of Göttingen, on 9-10 February 2018

In European societies, current media reports on (civil) wars, armed conflicts, terror attacks, illegalized migration, or attacks on migrants show that physical violence and violent phenomena attract great attention, albeit often in a very charged and selective manner.

The high number of studies devoted to violent phenomena and their causes, dynamics and consequences means that today there can be no question of a general neglect of violence in the social sciences any more, at least with regard to empirical research. Much recent research in this field has focused on violence in the narrow sense of the word, meaning the social dynamics organized around physical injury to, and the vulnerability of, social actors. This conference tries to go beyond a normative perspective limited to the study of isolated "causes", and strives to understand the interactive dynamics of violence that creates and destroys social order. In addition, increased attention is paid to the history and experiences of the actors involved, and their social networks.

Sociologists interested in biographical research, or in other forms of research into everyday life, have explicitly studied contexts structured by violence, such as wars and violent conflicts, migration courses, or domestic violence, and have focused, for example, on the biographical, familial and transgenerational consequences of violent experiences. A biographical research approach must include contextualizing the phenomena under study socio-historically and diachronically. Moreover, an interpretative research approach that focuses on the biographical experiences, perspectives and relevances of the actors in their social fields of action, and, if possible, their historical genesis, frequently leads to the discovery of violent phenomena, which have significantly contributed to structuring the biographical courses of these actors, even without an explicit focus on violence. In other words, researchers

commonly find traces of experiences of violence and violent behavior in various biographical fields. A biographical research approach makes it possible to examine the processes that lead to experiences of violence, whether as targets or performers, on both a personal and a collective level.

This interdisciplinary and international conference offers an opportunity for discussion and exchange between scholars engaged in research on violence and those engaged in biographical research, from their different academic perspectives.

We are interested in the following questions: How can biographical research contribute to the systematic inclusion of violence in the development of sociological theories, as called for in recent years by scholars involved in research on violence and violent conflicts? And what perspectives can research on violence contribute to biographical research in the social sciences and sociology?

We therefore invite papers based on empirical research in the following interrelated areas:

- Reconstruction of processes of the development, continuation and change of (physically) violent behavior, and interpretations of violence, from the perspectives of actors involved in different socio-historical contexts.
- Reconstruction of interrelations between members of different groupings and individuals in violent situations.
- Empirical perspectives on violent dynamics in different regions of the world and different social contexts.
- Figurations of groupings in violent or armed conflicts.
- Experience of violent conditions as part of everyday life, and as part of an actor's collective, familial and personal history.
- Violence in organizational contexts (such as police or army): development, continuation and change of patterns of interpretation and action in connection with armed violence in organizational contexts; practices of organizational violence and their legitimation, and interrelations between biographical and organizational professional patterns of action.
- Interdependencies between violence and collective belongings.
- Opportunities and limits in respect of the thematization of violence in different social contexts (also: in the research context) and in biographical courses.

Please send your paper title and abstract (not exceeding 2300 characters, including authors and affiliations) to conference.mzs2018@uni-goettingen.de.

Deadline: September 1st, 2017.

We especially invite junior researchers and young academics. Travel expenses can be partially covered for contributors of papers or presentations.

For current information visit our website at: <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/562269.html>

Organizing team

- Eva Bahl, M.A.; Isabella Enzler, M.A.; Hendrik Hinrichsen, M.A.; Kristina Meier, M.A.; Miriam Schäfer, M.A.; Katharina Teutenberg, M.A.; Arne Worm, M.A.

News about the Norbert Elias Foundation

At the end of 2016, the three long-serving members of the Board of the Norbert Elias Foundation, Amsterdam -- Johan Goudsblom, Hermann Korte and Stephen Mennell -- resigned in order to pass on the torch (as Elias was fond of saying) to a younger generation. Their successors are:

Johan Heilbron -- Ecole des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, and
Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam
Jason Hughes -- University of Leicester
Adrian Jitschin -- FernUniversität Hagen, Frankfurt Centre

The Norbert Elias Foundation was established in 1983 on the initiative of Norbert Elias himself, its aim being to stimulate research in the social sciences, especially in light of his own broad vision for them. When Elias died on 1 August 1990, the Foundation was his sole legatee, thereby inheriting the copyrights on his published works and unpublished manuscripts.

Arjan Post has been appointed Secretary to the Foundation, and can be contacted at secretary@norbert-elias.com. The Foundation is building a new multi-lingual website at <http://norbert-elias.com/en/>, though the old one remains for the moment online at www.norberteliasfoundation.nl

Recent publications by RC 20 members

Masamichi Sasaki. 2016. "A Comparative Analysis of Trust among Megacities: The Case of Shanghai, Seoul, and Tokyo." *Development and Society*. Vol.45. No.3. pp. 503-536.

Genov, Nikolai (2016) 'Towards a Synergetic and Probabilistic Approach to Cross-border Migration'. *International Journal of Social Sciences*, Vol. 5, N 4, pp. 45-66, DOI: 10.20472/SS.2016.5.4.003.

Abstract:

The cross-border migration has multiple causes, variety of manifestations and potentials for diverging effects. Paradoxically, the mainstream theories on the phenomenon are one-dimensional and deterministic. The effort to resolve the contradiction proceeds in four steps. First, mainstream theories of international migration are scrutinized for potential contributions to a synergetic and probabilistic conceptual framework. Second, the strategy for building the framework is outlined by elaborating on the components of the migration chain. Third, the components are integrated in a conceptual whole reflecting the multidimensionality and the variability of the migration's structures and processes. Fourth, the capacities of the integrated framework to guide synergetic and probabilistic descriptions, explanations and forecasting of cross-border migration are put under scrutiny. The conceptual developments are tested with a view to the needs for efficient management of the cross-border migration flows.

Keywords:

Cross-border migration; Migration theories; Synergy of concepts; Probabilistic approach; Migration management.

Genov, Nikolai (2017) 'Information Resources in Upgrading Organizational Rationality'. In: Rončević, Borut and Tomšič, Matevž, Eds. *Information Society and Its Manifestations: Economy, Politics, Culture*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, pp. 23-40.

Genov, Nikolai (2017) 'Does Europeanization Foster Constructive Individualization?' *Comparative Sociology*, vol. 16, N 2, pp. 183-212.

Abstract

*This paper aims at explaining changes in the conditions for individualization in ten central and eastern European (CEE) countries after they have joined the European Union in 2004 and 2007. The expected changes had to follow the transfer of the EU's *acquis communautaire* to the CEE and the accompanying Europeanization understood as upgrading of governance. Indicators used in longitudinal studies are identified in order to test the assumption. Synchronic and diachronic comparison of outcomes of studies on the topic is carried out. The results don't support the hypothesis about relevant changes in the conditions of individualization in the CEE countries due to their Europeanization. The upgrading of governance quality affects the individualization in the old and new EU member states similarly. Declining quality of the conditions for individualization appears in both groups of countries with the same frequency and intensity too.*

Keywords

governance – individualization – EU enlargement to the East – changes in governance

Savelyev Y. (2017) *Multidimensional modernity: social inclusion in assessment of social development*: monograph. Kyiv: The University of Kyiv.

This is a comparative study of European countries based on WVS/EVS data.

https://www.academia.edu/33288316/Savelyev_Y._2017_Multidimensional_modernity_social_inclusion_in_assessment_of_social_development_monograph._Kyiv_The_University_of_Kyiv_in_Ukrainian