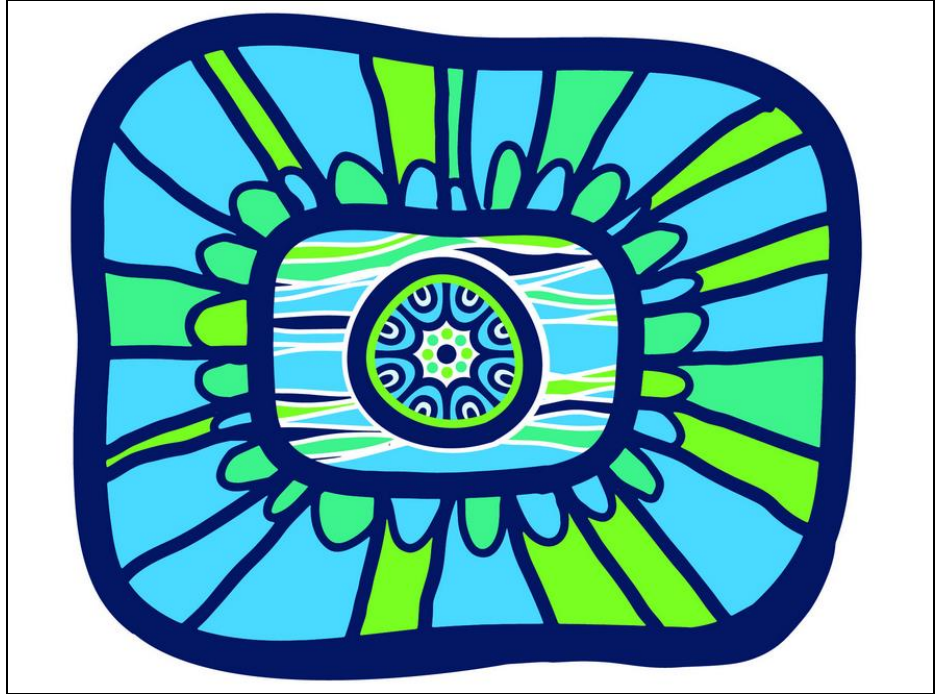


Biography and Society



XX ISA World Congress of Sociology
June 25-July 1, 2023, Melbourne, Australia



Biography
and Society

NEWSLETTER/JULY 2022

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENCY

Dear Colleagues,

Had the times been different, we would have met in Melbourne by the time this Newsletter reaches you. However, it will be another year before the World Congress takes place. Nevertheless, this issue of the Newsletter gives some hints of things to come: it features the RC 38 sessions for the Melbourne Congress, coordinated by Johannes Becker and Maria Pohn-Lauggas. The RC 38 was allowed to organize 14 sessions (including the business meeting), but we managed to include three additional sessions – Joint Sessions which are hosted by different RCs. This means we have 17 sessions covering a broad range of topics, and including established and new co-operations with other RCs. The Call for Papers is open until 30 September. We are eagerly awaiting your abstracts!

However, we don't yet know exactly how the congress will be organized. It will be in a hybrid format, but a certain percentage of attending conference participants will be required. At the same time, we know that many members will not travel to Melbourne, either because it clashes with teaching obligations, or because of the burdensome and expensive journey, or out of consideration for the impact of long-distance flights on the climate. We are waiting for more detailed information about how to deal with the practicalities of a hybrid conference and many points are not clear at the moment. Of course we will keep you informed. This also applies to the various grants for registration and travel which will certainly be offered.

In this Newsletter, you will find announcements of new projects, conferences and publications. We hope that you will enjoy reading it.

Johannes Becker, Hermílio Santos, Maria Pohn-Lauggas, Tazuko Kobayashi

Membership fees

Please remember to pay your membership fee. To apply for membership or renew ISA and/or RC affiliation, please use the membership form online: <https://isa.enoah.com/Sign-In>

The membership fees to the RC38 for 4 years are (see ISA regulations):

Regular members	U\$40
Students and members from countries B and C	U\$20

If you have any questions concerning the membership, please contact Johannes Becker for advice: johannes.becker@sowi.uni-goettingen.de

The deadline for the next Newsletter is at the end of November 2022.

Please send us:

- A short paper (3-7 pages) on a topic you are currently working on
- A presentation of your current project
- Some reflections on your experiences of teaching biographical approaches and methods
- Reports or some notes about conferences you have attended
- General reports about activities in the field of biographical research in your institution, university, country, continent
- Interesting calls for papers for conferences, workshops, summer schools
- New publications from you, also in your respective native language
- Any other thought or information you would like to share.
- Please send your contributions in Word or rtf formats.

Send your contribution directly to: Biography-and-Society@gmx.de

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RC 38 SESSIONS AT THE WORLD CONGRESS 2023 – CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Program Coordinators

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Gendered Intergenerational Experiences of Social Mobility in Migration

Joint Session with RC32 Women, Gender and Society

Session Organizers: Ursula APITZSCH, Goethe University, Germany; Manashi RAY, West Virginia State University, Charleston, United States; Minna-Kristiina RUOKONEN-ENGLER, Institute for Social Research at Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany

Social mobility, understood as a change of social location within a hierarchical social structure, can be investigated along changes of vertical and horizontal social position in a society. However, this says little about the multiple experiences and social positions of people like labour migrants, transmigrants, and forced migrants who cross nation-state borders and experience social mobility in reference to different nation-states as spatially linked transnational experiences. Further, little is known from an intergenerational gendered perspective about how experiences of social mobility, such as upward, downward, and contradictory class mobility, are individually and collectively conceived, valued, and negotiated and how these experiences influence not only individual agency but intergenerational relations and family biographies. In our session, we hope to discuss the following questions:

- How can intergenerational social mobility be conceptualized beyond nation-state borders? Which methods are helpful?
- How are social mobility experiences intergenerationally negotiated? Are there gendered patterns of difference in such practices?
- How do family members' different social mobility trajectories influence the development of individual agency?
- What does the intersectional perspective contribute to this field?

We invite papers discussing the topic from different theoretical perspectives, methodologies, and migration contexts. We particularly welcome contributions from empirically based studies.

Gazing Violence – Violent Gaze

Session Organizers: Julia SZEKELY, Eotvos Lorand University, Hungary; Julia VAJDA, ELTE University Budapest, Hungary

Our session aims to elaborate on various understandings of the gaze that either refer to the act of in/directly witnessing violence or to the violent look itself: to the act of gaze that is present in certain events of our lives and is in a sense the result of our past, i.e., our life (hi)story.

Besides the different concepts of the gaze, or the encounters manifested in these gazes in philosophy and psychoanalysis (Buber, Levinas, Lacan, Sartre etc.), recent feminist theories (e.g. Barbara Fredrickson and Tomi-Ann Roberts) discuss the objectifying gaze of men towards women. Yet, this phenomenon of objectification can be present in any kind of "power situation", in which human beings become treated as objects. This is e.g., the gaze of the aggressor whose look becomes reflected in the terrified eyes of the children shot in Buchach.

Accordingly, we are especially interested in gazes related to traumatic (historical) events where we would like to grasp the complicated relationship between various gazes between the perpetrator, the bystander and the victim. At the same time, we are likewise interested in the analysis of institutions where the remembrance of these events is at stake and there are people whose gaze is directed on these past events.

Therefore, we would like to invite papers that reflect on these acts of gazing and the persons behind these gazes through the analysis of their biographies and biographical narrations, through which empathy and solidarity can also be strengthened towards those persecuted.

Same Interview, Different Perspectives – Invited Session

Session Organizers: Lena INOWLOCKI, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, Germany; Monica MASSARI, University of Milan, Italy; Gwendolyn GILLIERON, LinCS, Université de Strasbourg, France

Biographical researchers have different ways of approaching a biographical interview. Depending upon their preferred methodology for doing biographical analysis, but also their theoretical and normative perspectives and their substantive interests, they will tackle the analysis of a life story in different ways. In this session several researchers will be invited to engage with the same interview about a person's life and reflect on how they would approach it and why. Transcripts will be available for participants attending the session.

In order to make sure that a range of approaches is present in the session, this will be an invited session.

The Social Construction of Migrants: Contested (Hi-)Stories of Migration from the Perspective of Biographical Research

Session Organizers: Arne WORM, University of Goettingen, Germany; Steve TONAH, University of Ghana, Ghana; Lucas CÉ SANGALLI, University of Göttingen, Germany

This session focuses on migration as a category of everyday life in different geographical contexts of the Global North and the Global South. On the one hand, migrations in the sense of spatial movements are universal phenomena in human history. On the other hand, constructions of migration – and especially "migrants" – are shaped by the emergence of statehood, border and citizenship regimes, and nationalized discourses of belonging, which are in turn entangled with global history and (post-)colonial modernity. The "comings and goings" of people in the past and in the present are negotiated differently in discourses, stocks of knowledge, and collective memories in different contexts (whether as a problem, a necessity, something normal, a tradition, to name just a few possibilities). There are great differences in respect of whether the category "migrant" serves as a symbolic boundary.

We invite papers that use qualitative approaches to study processes and constellations in the Global South and the Global North, in which constructions and (hi-)stories of migration are contested, negotiated, and transformed within everyday life figurations. The papers can relate to these suggested topics:

- *Contested knowledges:* How is migration-related knowledge produced, reproduced, or transformed in different localized or transnational collectives (such as families, generations, social movements, etc.)?
- *Contested (hi-)stories:* Whose experiences are presented and remembered as migration histories (or not) in different contexts and situations (e.g. in discourses, in asylum interviews, during fieldwork)?
- *(De-)Categorization of migration:* Which meanings do migration categorizations have for "migrants" in different periods of their lives?

New Developments in Biographical Research

Session Organizers: Roswitha BRECKNER, Univ of Vienna, Inst Sociology, Austria; Kathy DAVIS, VU University, Netherlands

In recent years, sociologists and other social scientists have begun to look for creative, innovative ways to do biographical research. Biographical interviews using traditional methodologies of interviewing and analysis often fall short in contexts where interview partners are – for whatever reason – unable to put their experiences into words or develop a narrative about their lives. Walking tours, performances, and research using photographs, visual art or music, often provide interesting ways to do biographical research. In a similar vein, biographical researchers are combining biographical interviews and analysis with other research methodologies (ethnography, performance and visual analysis). This session explores some of these methodological advances with an eye toward expanding the terrain of biographical research.

Black Lives and the New Wave of Antiracist Mobilization within and across World Regions

Joint Session with RC47 Social Classes and Social Movements

Session Organizers: Nicole DOERR, University of Copenhagen, Denmark; Sabrina ZAJAK, German Center for Integration and Migration Research (DeZIM), Berlin & Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany; Sevil ÇAKIR-KILINÇOĞLU, Center of Methods in Social Sciences, University of Goettingen, Germany; Eren YETKIN, Koblenz University of Applied Sciences, Berlin / Koblenz, Germany

The violent death of George Floyd has sparked mass mobilizations in the U.S. and led to an unprecedented diffusion of "Black Lives Matter" protests around the world. However, anti-racist and black activism has a long tradition in different regions. This session wants to explore the new wave of antiracist mobilizations. Some argue that the recent wave of mobilization - while strengthening and transforming pre-existing antiracist activism in different countries - still remains largely a support of the US BLM movement. Others have pointed out, that the new shape of anti-racist mobilizations and black women's activism, although often transnational, have little to do with dynamics in the US. They are rather a response to the recent crisis of democracy, including recent advances in the systems of oppression of intersectional marginalized social groups. This session, therefore, asks: How far is the recent wave of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) activism inspired by US protests? What narratives, visual and performative repertoire, identity constructs, actors, forms of resistance, and networks shape the recent mobilization in different localities? What are its context-specific historical and regional origins? Could we apply a global perspective on the recent mobilization? What are the connections between the biographical and collective projects in dealing with different forms of discrimination and racism in the Global North and the Global South? This session seeks to discuss these topics with scholars from different world regions which explore the topic of anti-racist mobilization in its local and global constellations.

Conceptual Challenges in Biographical Research

Session Organizers: Susan BELL, Drexel University, USA; Lena INOWLOCKI, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, Germany

This session brings to the fore conceptual challenges scholars encounter. Some of the questions this raises include: What kind of terms do researchers use to make sense of the experiences people talk about? In which ways do researchers' concepts differ from the terms ordinary people use to talk about their experiences, and which consequences can this have? How do researchers find terms and concepts that they consider adequate?

Further questions concern the terms and concepts that researchers use in different interdisciplinary contexts, such as in ethnography and in biographical research. Thus, how do we describe the research situation? Do we speak, for example, about rapport, relations, or research alliance, and what do we mean in each case?

Spatial Scales and the Analysis of Biographies and Family (Hi)Stories

Joint Session with RC21 Regional and Urban Development

Session Organizers: Eva BAHL, University of Goettingen, Germany; Nicole WITTE, University of Goettingen - Center of Methods in Social Sciences, Germany; Johannes BECKER, University of Göttingen, Germany

The analysis of spatial scales and re-scaling processes is a research perspective that has had a large impact, not only on urban sociology and the sociology of space, but on all social sciences. It has provided an important gateway to look beyond the focus on nation-states and to include the interconnections and interrelatedness of different scales, such as neighborhood, city, or region. Interestingly, the concepts of scale and biography have rarely been brought together, although references to different spatial scales are an inherent part of life stories and life histories. If biographies are seen as being not only temporally, but also spatially shaped, this aspect of multiple scales in life (hi)stories acquires central importance.

In this session we are interested in contributions which deal with the role of spatial forms and various scales in life and family (hi)stories. We invite papers addressing this topic through empirical research and discussing methodological, conceptual, and theoretical insights.

Questions include, but are not limited to the following:

- In which ways are different spatial scales (neighborhood, city, state, the world...) interlinked when people tell the story of their lives and that of their families?
- How do socio-historically shaped foci on specific spatial scales impact biographical courses?
- How can biographical narratives help to analyze different spaces on particular scales or the interrelations between different spaces?
- Are there differences in the way spaces/spatial scales are narratively conceptualized in different regional or cultural contexts?

Indigenous People's Experiences amid Socio-Historical Power Struggles

Session Organizers: Victoria TABOADA GÓMEZ, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany; Johanna SAGNER TAPIA, Universidad de La Frontera, Chile; Gabriela PEREZ, Universidad de la Frontera, Chile

In this regular session, we will discuss how indigenous peoples around the globe position themselves in the face of multiple forms of socio-historical power struggles throughout their history. When considering a historical background of constant struggle against colonial processes, institutionalized violence, and processes of exclusion/inclusion in different areas of life, it is difficult to speak about a "resurgence" at all: to build strategies against outsidership and power inequalities including authoritarianism represent an intergenerational task among indigenous peoples. For this session, we invite papers that aim at exploring these strategies empirically, considering current realities from different socio-historical, geographical, and cultural contexts. We particularly welcome methodological approaches that seek to reconstruct and focus on biographical or community experiences and perspectives from indigenous peoples themselves as experts on their current challenges and lessons.

Biographical Research in Extreme Places and Difficult to Reach Areas: Challenges and Strategies

Session Organizers: Karina REIF, PUCRS, Brazil; Hermilio SANTOS, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil; Martín DI MARCO, CONICET/IIIGG, Argentina

Biographical research carried out in places which are difficult to reach, either because of geographic or security reasons, will be discussed in this session. The intention is that the papers address planning in relation to field research in places that require effort, negotiation and care for researchers to access and develop their work.

Contributions on methodological challenges and ethical issues are also expected. Studies about specific areas, such as indigenous villages, closed institutions, regions of petty and organized crime, military conflicts or exploration in the open sea, are also welcome. Areas that have experienced natural disasters or regions with extreme temperatures, as well as places with a focus on contagious diseases, also require researchers to deal with several obstacles. Discussions about this kind of experience can contribute to the production of knowledge about ways to make research viable in the face of these types of difficulties and how biographies may help to understand social phenomena.

Investigations in regions of war, prisons and disaster areas, for instance, demand strategies that involve logistics, safety precautions and planning adaptations. These are the topics that we intend to discuss and encourage in this session.

Biographical Methods in Applied Social Research

Session Organizers: Michaela KOETTIG, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (FRA-UAS), Germany; Priscila SUSIN, PUCRS, Brazil; Débora RINALDI, Universidade Pontifícia Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Applied or intervention-oriented social research uses baseline studies to first identify, delimit, and characterize daily problems faced by institutions, organizations, groups, communities, or individuals and then to develop appropriate interventions. There is a growing interest in what is called "policy research", i.e. the study of public policy as a social phenomenon and a tool of state intervention with varying degrees of civil society participation in its planning and execution. Quantitative research still dominates policy research because it is believed that said phenomena need to be explained from a long-range analytical perspective and that qualitative methods are only capable of dealing with subjectivities and with microsocial investigation. However, public policies based on biographical methods have stood out for the past decades, bringing to light the diversity of needs, strategies, and resources present in people's everyday lives, especially in its relationship with institutions. Other fields have also been using applied social research, such as studies on the mobilization of civil society and research for public and private organizations focusing on people and work management. Research-action, as well as the different qualitative methodologies commonly associated with it, plays a special role in these efforts. Under this light, this session is open to papers that focus on the use of biographical methods in applied research and baseline research with practical orientation within the following areas: a) research design (e.g. definition of research problem, methods, triangulation, action plan); b) ethical challenges; c) research praxis; d) implementation of interventions; e) impact assessment; f) data dissemination strategies.

Biography and Disaster: From Methodological Perspectives

Session Organizers: Gaku OSHIMA, Meiji University, Japan; Tazuko KOBAYASHI, Hitotsubashi University, Japan

Many disasters have occurred on our earth. Various natural disasters, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, wildfires, and floods, have brought us the loss of homes and families, the collapse of local communities, and sometimes immeasurable damage.

Disasters have caused enormous loss and hardship to people's daily lives and have changed their lives. Disasters have a long-term impact on people's lives and experiences of disasters have been handed down to be left behind in biographies and shared as collective memories in local communities.

Disaster experiences which included severe difficulties or loss, and sometimes a feeling of solidarity have been studied through qualitative research, especially biographical methods. Interpreting these kinds of experiences requires careful considerations based on empirical research, historical oral tradition and multiple sources.

This session, "Biography and Disaster," is of particular interest to organizers who have studied the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake using the biographical approach in Japan, where earthquakes occur frequently.

The disasters are not limited to natural disasters such as earthquakes, but also include catastrophes that cause great hardships for people, such as wars or social disasters. This session aims to be a place where participants can discuss the possibility of biographical research on disasters.

We would like to address this question along with various research examples from the perspective of what kind of biographical methods are possible in the study of disaster experience. We particularly welcome contributions that discuss this topic in reference to specific empirical approaches.

Biographical Perspectives in the Research Field of Political Participation

Session Organizers: Irini SIOUTI, Goethe University, Germany; Georgios TSIOLIS, University of Crete, Greece

In this session we would like to discuss and reflect on biographical perspectives in the research field of political participation and how this might contribute to the epistemological and methodological debate in political participation research. We are especially interested in the particular role of transnational migration experience contexts and the social conditions and constellations under which forms of political participation develop in (post)migration societies. With a broad concept of participation, we are inviting papers for this session based on biographical case studies in diverse fields of political participation (including classical forms of political participation in political parties and trade unions as well as civic participation and transnational activism, etc.). Above all, the following questions should be discussed: What is the impact of a biographical-theoretical perspective in the research field of political participation? How can we take theoretically into account the local, (trans)national and global dynamics of political participation in (post)migration societies? What are the methodological challenges of using biographical methods in the research field of political participation?

Biographical Research – Contemporary Methodological and Ethical Concerns

Session Organizers: Kaja KAZMIERSKA, University of Lodz, Poland; Piotr SZENAJCH, Lodz University, Poland

The beginning of biographical research was based on written materials. The possibility of recording a spontaneous narrative in the presence of the researcher, who could observe the interactional conditions of creating a story, became the turning point. Most biographical research projects are carried out with the use of audio recordings while analytical work was focused on anonymized transcriptions. However, the new technical possibilities, analytical strategies and research practice and unexpected contingent conditions that emerged in recent years, may have started to transform the field again.

The two pandemic years have led some scholars to conduct interviews online. Researchers are increasingly expected to archive their material in digital repositories. The availability of computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software led some biographical researchers to implement such practices. Social media, online collaboration and remote work enabled new forms of autobiographical expression and self-portrayal, displaying identity, belonging, taste and status, sharing intimacy or raising public concerns. They also reshaped attitudes towards privacy. All this prompted some researchers to consider audio-visual digital data such as photos, videos, vlogs and social media entries as viable and valuable research material. Others reached for photo and video cameras as well as audio-visual techniques for producing and eliciting research material.

These issues and others not mentioned here pose new methodological and ethical challenges. We invite researchers who can share their experiences, good practices and dilemmas that arise when working on biographical materials and solutions agreed upon in their research environments on how to adapt the biographical approach to contemporary realities.

Collective Memories of Violence: Remembering in Families and Local Communities

Joint Session with RC56 Historical Sociology

Session Organizers: Gabriele ROSENTHAL, Georg-August University of Göttingen, Germany; Miriam SCHAEFER, Georg-August-University Goettingen, Germany; Deniz DEMIRHISAR, IFEA (Institut français d'études anatoliennes) / CETOBAC - EHESS, Turkey

In recent decades biographical research has given more attention to the relevance of collective memories of violence such as armed conflicts and persecution in different historical periods and world regions. Collective memories shape people's view of the past, and determine which parts of the past are included or excluded in the present knowledge of social groups and collectivities. They also shape the "we" and "they" images that are constitutive for biographies, and structure interactions in power asymmetric relations. Not least, collective memories are in competition with each other, and social power relations are responsible for their dominance or marginalization. Accordingly, they co-determine the social position of individuals and groupings.

From the perspectives of historical sociology, figural sociology and biographical studies, we will investigate how collective memories of armed conflicts and persecution are shaped within local communities and families, and their impact on biographies and the social positioning of individuals and groupings. We will explore the following questions in the session:

- What (competing) collective memories of armed conflicts and persecution are formed and transmitted by families or local communities in their respective contexts?
- Under which socio-historical conditions can they be passed on (or not) and in what ways can they be subject to transformations?
- What is the significance of collective memories and the associated discourses for biographical structures and social figurations in local contexts?
- What effects on biographies can we empirically determine if the collective history related to one's own grouping is not part of dominant collective memories and discourses?

Emotions in the Research Process: Methodological Challenges and Theoretical Reflections

Joint Session with WG08 Society and Emotions

Session Organizers: Marina ARIZA, INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIONES SOCIALES, UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL AUTÓNOMA DE MÉXICO, Mexico; Minna-Kristiina RUOKONEN-ENGLER; IfS, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt, Germany; Irini SIOUTI, IfS, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt, Germany

Emotions can both hinder and facilitate sociological research. Even though emotions surface in all types of face-to-face interviews and are shaped by its form, e(auto)biographical narrative interviews, in particular, seem to bring up strong emotions. These usually concern crucial moments of one's personal life that may be thematically related to wider social phenomena like societal cleavages, majority-minority relationships, socio-economic or political conflicts, political repression or (civil) wars. However, idiosyncratic emotions also surface in such interviews. Interviewees may openly address them or rely on different strategies to hide them. The researcher is usually affected by these emotions and should therefore not only learn to acknowledge and read them but also reflect upon their own emotions during the entire research process. In this joint session of WG08 and RC38, we would like to discuss the following questions: How do we recognize and conceptualize the emotional dynamics of the interview? How do we deal with the emotions of the researcher? What role does the research setting play in evoking emotions? How do we analyze emotions? How do we write about our findings and present them to our readers? How do we teach about the role of emotions in the research process? We invite papers that discuss the influence of emotions on a research process from different methodological and theoretical perspectives.

PROJECTS

Research project: Crime in Latin America (CRIMLA). The role of family, employment, culture and the state

Institution: University of Oslo, Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law

The project is funded by the Research Council of Norway

Responsible researchers: Sveinung Sandberg (University of Oslo), Gustavo Fondevila, (CIDE, Mexico) and Carolina Agoff (UNAM, Mexico), Martín Di Marco (University of Oslo), David R. Goyes (University of Oslo).

Since the early 1990s there has been a significant growth of criminal activity in Latin America. Violence and murders are escalating, and the security situation for most citizens has worsened. States that are already weak and unstable democracies have been further destabilized and weakened, due to this rise in crime. This is reflected in low public trust in governments. Gangs and drug cartels challenge security, stability and political and economic development, and crime is one of the main reasons for national and international migration.

Even so, there has been relatively little research on crime in Latin America, as compared to other parts of the world. The main idea in CRIMLA is that exploring offenders' criminal careers and life-trajectories is crucial to understanding crime. Given the current reliance on perspectives and data from the Global North (especially the UK and US), this project will be an important addition to contemporary research on crime and criminal careers worldwide. The main objective is to develop a culturally and contextually sensitive life course sociology emphasizing the particular social, economic and institutional factors of crime in Latin America.

Results and insights gained from the project will have great importance for studies of the role of crime, security and development in this region, inform research on crime in the Global South more generally, and be crucial for further theorizing life courses and criminal pathways. The project especially pursues a better empirical understanding of the role of family, employment, culture and the state for criminal trajectories in Latin America.

Research Project: “Transitioning from the pandemic to the post-pandemic: challenges and possibilities of new scenarios in public health from the narratives of its workers” (“Transitar de la pandemia a la postpandemia, desafíos y posibilidades de los nuevos escenarios en la salud pública desde las narrativas de sus trabajadores/as”)

Project director: Dr. Anahí Sy (CONICET, Argentina)

During the pandemic, pre-existing health problems and demands converged with emerging and/or circumstantial issues, associated with the need to respond to the health emergency. This study is based on the narratives of public health workers, from centers and hospitals, in various regions of Argentina. The needs, demands and the daily work process of the medical-assistance personnel do not always coincide with what the institution rules and regulates as medical-epidemiological emergency and/or urgency, nor with the expectations and needs felt by the population. This situation leads to the national policies that tend to homogenize the territory being viewed as alien, distant and external. The invisibility of local realities and the homogenization of health policies at the national level conditions work in health and the opportunity to take sensitive and consensual measures with those primarily responsible for establishing a new normality for collective health care and attention.

The purpose of this project is to produce information that allows understanding the care and self-care processes from the perspective of health-care workers during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, in order to identify the main problems, resolution strategies and lines of action. The aim is to identify the main problems and difficulties recognized by those who are working in the health area, incorporate their views into decision-making and generate local skills and knowledge that contribute to producing information and developing lines of action, programs and/or public health policies from a rights approach with a gender perspective.

More information: https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ciencia/agencia/acciones-covid-19/pisac-covid-19/pisac-covid-19-no77-los-nuevos-escenarios-en-la?tca=KPll_a_UEmk2Ou7AURNqd1JY-JRnUKeleo_4iOKBZcl

Research Project: Gender-based violence from the perspective of the offenders: Life stories from La Matanza

Research director: Dr. Martín Hernán Di Marco (UNLaM)

In Argentina, violence-related morbidity and mortality represents the main cause of Potentially Lost Years of Life and one of the main factors that shapes the health-disease and well-being of the population. Violence against women—including femicide, as the maximum expression of interpersonal violence—occurs mainly in young and marginalized populations. Despite its epidemiological and social incidence, there are few studies that dig into the biographical dimension of those who exercised or exercise physical violence. In turn, both nationally and internationally, the trajectories and meanings assigned by the perpetrators themselves have been domains that have been scarcely addressed, despite being central to the understanding of this phenomenon. The project aims to analyze the biographical narratives of men who have exercised physical violence against women in the La Matanza city, with the purpose of understanding the socialization and legitimization processes of violence.

A qualitative methodological strategy was designed, based on narrative interviews, structured interviews and the construction of life lines for the perpetrators of physical violence against women in La Matanza. The field work will be carried out in "violent men". This project draws upon from three disciplinary frameworks: sociocultural epidemiology, anthropology of violence, and masculinity studies. Special attention will be paid on the link between violence, masculinity and biographies. Data will be analyzed through an inductive coding strategy, following the methodological framework of the Reconstruction of Biographical Cases. This project follows and deepens a pre-existing local line of studies on the exercise of violence. This study hopes to provide empirical evidence that contributes to the understanding of violence against women and its potential eradication.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

International Online School of Biographical Method

September 19th-29th, 2022

e-mail: cbbihm@uni.lodz.pl

The International School of Biographic Method will take place online during the last two weeks of September 2022 (19th-29th Sep). Classes in the form of short lectures and several-hour workshops will be conducted online for a small group of students by distinguished researchers - specialists in biographical research, including the creators and co-developers of research techniques: Daniel Bertaux, Maggie O'Neill, Fritz Schütze, Gerhard Riemann, Ina Alber-Armenat, Lisa Moran, and from Poland - Kaja Kaźmierska, Katarzyna Waniek, Agnieszka Golczyńska-Grondas and Renata Dopierała. Students will be introduced to the basic orientations of the biographical method - the Bertaux approach, the Gabriele Rosenthal approach, Fritz Schütze's methodology, walking sociology, and the BNIM. Additionally, each of the instructors will be available to participants on a one-to-one basis for consultations that will take place during the ISBM.

Participation in 80% of class hours is required to obtain the completion certificate. If you are interested in applying, please send an email to the school office: Katarzyna Chojnacka at: cbbihm@uni.lodz.pl with the following information:

- first and last name,
- home university name and location,
- field and year of study.
- Deadline for initial applications is **July 15, 2022**. Applications to the school will be decided on a first-come, first-served basis. The participation in the school is free of charge.

Programme

MONDAY, September 19	
Prof. Daniel Bertaux	LECTURE: <i>Life Stories as outstanding tools to study the inner workings of 'social worlds' in Howard S. Becker sense</i>
Dr. Ina Alber-Armenat	WORKSHOP: <i>Biographical Case Reconstruction (Gabriele Rosenthal's approach)</i>
TUESDAY, September 20	
Lisa Moran, PhD	WORKSHOP: <i>Exploring the Multidimensionality of the Biographic Narrative Interpretive Method (BNIM): Reflexivity, Ethics, and the Intricacies of Interviewing</i>

WEDNESDAY, September 21	
Prof. Maggie O'Neill	WORKSHOP: <i>Walking Methods / Research on the Move: walking as a biographical interview method</i>
THURSDAY, September 22	
Prof. Fritz Schütze	LECTURE: <i>The epistemic power of the autobiographical narrative interview demonstrated on a Tamil-Hindu Singaporean case.</i>
Prof. Kaja Kaźmierska Prof. Katarzyna Waniek	WORKSHOP: <i>Autobiographical narrative interview: method and practice (Part I)</i>
FRIDAY, September 23	
Prof. Kaja Kaźmierska Prof. Katarzyna Waniek	WORKSHOP: <i>Autobiographical narrative interview: method and practice (Part II)</i>
FRIDAY, September 23 ON-LINE CULTURAL EVENT	
MONDAY, September 26	
Prof. Gerhard Riemann	WORKSHOP: <i>Autobiographical narrative interview: sociolinguistically based textual analysis of social processes (Part I)</i>
TUESDAY, September 27	
Prof. Gerhard Riemann	WORKSHOP: <i>Autobiographical narrative interview: sociolinguistically based textual analysis of social processes (Part II)</i>
WEDNESDAY, September 28	
Prof. Kaja Kaźmierska	LECTURE: <i>Ethical issues in biographical research</i>
Prof. Agnieszka Golczyńska-Grondas Renata Dopierała, PhD	WORKSHOP: <i>Research Supervision (Part I)</i>
THURSDAY, September 29	
Prof. Agnieszka Golczyńska-Grondas Renata Dopierała, PhD	WORKSHOP: <i>Research Supervision (Part II)</i>
Prof. Agnieszka Golczyńska-Grondas Prof. Katarzyna Waniek	Evaluation and Closing Session

Lecturers

PROF. DANIEL BERTAUX



Professor emeritus. One of the most prominent biographical sociologists in France, Europe and the world. His main fields of interest include: qualitative methods (case studies, life stories, family case histories), social mobility, and the Welfare State. Founder and one of the presidents of the Research Committee 38 *Biography and Society* in the International Sociological Association. Former Research Director at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and member of the Laboratoire Cultures et Sociétés en Europe (LCSE).. He was lead Coordinator on the European research project BETWIXT (1998-2001) on families living in precariousness in seven large cities (London, Dublin, Toulouse, Lisbon, Turin, Helsinki and Umea);

PROF. FRITZ SCHÜTZE



Professor emeritus. A German sociologist widely known for developing the autobiographical narrative interview research method. In the 70s, as a members of so-called Arbeitsgruppe Bielefelder Soziologen he has transplanted and disseminated symbolic interaction approach, ethnomethodology, and sociology of knowledge. Together with Gerhard Riemann he introduced the concept of trajectory to social sciences and has analysed the processes of suffering and self-alienation. For many years he was the Chair of Sociology/Microsociology at the University of Magdeburg. His recent interests include: European mental space, interactive relationships between biographical and collective identity, and professional work.

PROF. KAJA KAŻMIERSKA



Professor at the University of Lodz, head of the Department of Sociology of Culture, one of the most recognized biography researchers in Poland and Europe. She specializes also in identity, and biographical memory. Currently her main interests include: post-transformation processes in individual experiences in Poland, ethical issues in biographical research as well as the problems of youth, parish and family in contemporary archdiocese For many years she was the coordinator of ESA Research Network 03 RN03 - *Biographical Perspectives on European Societies*. Her book "The Generational Experience of the Shoah Survivor" was published by Academic Studies Press in Boston. She has edited: "Biographical Method in Sociology. Anthology of texts".

Brief Description of the Workshops

Ina Alber-Armenat

Biographical Case Reconstruction



When doing biographical research one of the assumptions is to reconstruct social phenomena in their process of becoming. There are different approaches in biographical research dealing with this challenge. Gabriele Rosenthal has introduced the analytical tool of biographical case reconstructions. Using biographical-narrative interviews as the source of data collection, the analysis focuses on the interdependency of the past (the life history experienced) and the present (the life story narrated). "Narratives of experienced events refer both to the current life and to the past experience. Just as the past is constituted out of the present and the anticipated future, so the present arises out of the past and the future. In this way biographical narratives provide information on the narrator's present as well as about his/her past and perspectives for the future" (Rosenthal 2004: 50). In this workshop we will discuss the principles of biographical case reconstructions and get to know the analytical steps of biographical case reconstructions as introduced by Gabriele Rosenthal in some exercises. Participants are welcome to share some of their materials (e.g. interview transcript) for the exercises in advance: ialber@uni-goettingen.de

Lisa Moran

Exploring the Multidimensionality of the Biographic Narrative Interpretive Method (BNIM): Reflexivity, Ethics, and the Intricacies of Interviewing



This interactive workshop provides a critical introduction to the Biographic Narrative Interpretive Method (BNIM), providing practical 'hands on' examples of interviewing; advice on challenges, possible pitfalls and solutions and discussion on BNIM analysis, interpretation, and ethics. In this workshop, Lisa draws on a decade's expertise of using the method with various populations including persons that are frequently deemed to be marginalized and vulnerable. This includes care leavers, international students, young people in foster care and their caregivers and occupational groups with high levels of economic and cultural capital like veterinarians. The first half of the session focuses on interviewing; 'Pushing for PINs' and ethics while the latter half elucidates intricacies of BNIM analysis and interpretation. Ample opportunities are provided for group discussion and peer to peer learning.

Maggie O'Neill

Walking Methods/Research on the Move: walking as a biographical interview method



This workshop focuses upon walking as a method of doing biographical sociology, it introduces, theories and shares walking as a method for conducting biographical interviews. In the workshop we will ask: what are our imaginative spaces, our sensory scapes? How, biographically do we relate to our 'present' our immediate environments, our pasts and future(s)? What principles and practices might we take into our biographical research, using the walking interview as biographical method (WIBM). What interpretive procedures and analysis might we use to analyse a WIBM? The workshop includes some practice

exercises to become sensitised to conducting a WIBM. If there is time we will also consider walking as critical pedagogy, as a method of teaching and learning in space and place. This short film provides an example of a feminist walk created for teaching and learning week at University College Cork. <https://media.heanet.ie/page/24da07ec5195498fb085bdf166cbe0cc>

Gerhard Riemann

Autobiographical narrative interview: sociolinguistically based textual analysis of social processes



The aim of this research workshop is to familiarise participants with a type of sociolinguistically based textual analysis of social processes, which has emerged in the study of narrative interviews in the last decades – especially autobiographical narrative interviews, but also interviews in which narrators remember the long-term development and history of their professional relationships with clients (e.g., social workers telling about their relationship with a client, a family, a group or community). This type of analysis, which is based on the work of the sociologist Fritz Schütze and his associates, has proved especially fruitful in biographical research and in the analysis of professional work and has been practiced in different disciplines (like sociology and educational science) and professions (especially social work). The purpose of this workshop is to jointly analyse transcriptions of narrative interviews, which some of the participants contribute (either transcriptions of interviews which had been conducted in English or translations of interviews, which had been conducted in another language, into English). During the workshop it would also be possible to analyse other qualitative data, e.g., autobiographical writings or other kinds of open interviews which contain longer narrative or argumentative sequences. Students who would like to share their data with the participants of the workshop are welcome to contact riemanngerhard@gmail.com as soon as possible. The workshop is also open to colleagues and students who would just like to familiarise themselves with this analytical approach without providing their own data.

Kaja Kaźmierska & Katarzyna Waniek

Autobiographical narrative interview: method and practice



The workshops' aim is to discuss the coherent and complex program of Fritz Schütze's biographical sociology, to show the power of extempore storytelling and the potential of the method in the study of social reality. In order to understand its ontological and epistemological distinctiveness and the possibilities resulting from its application, the method is presented in the context of personal documents' sociology development and against the background of other approaches researching extempore life histories and their different understandings of the ontological and epistemological status of the text of an autobiographical account. It focuses on how to conduct a good autobiographical narrative interview, what practical skills of interviewers are needed and gives examples of research situations that enable to evoke and sustain the linguistic scheme of narration and those that block it. It systematically presents research steps and discusses analytical tools referring to a single case analysis and comparative analysis of several cases. It shows a process of theory building that finds its roots in the research strategy of grounded theory.

Agnieszka Golczyńska-Grondas & Renata Dopierala

Research supervision



Research supervision will be devoted to methodological and ethical issues faced by researchers. Depending on the needs of the audience, the time of the two-day workshop will take the form either of group work on real difficulties experienced by students beginning their own qualitative and biographical research, or on the analysis of authentic cases compiled by the workshop leaders.

3rd International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability” (“SMUS Conference”)

About the Conference

The “Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability” (GCSMUS or SMUS) together with the Research Committee on “Logic and Methodology in Sociology” (RC33) of the “International Sociology Association” (ISA) and the Research Network “Quantitative Methods” (RN21) of the European Sociology Association” (ESA) will organize a **3rd International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (“SMUS Conference”)**, which will simultaneously be the **“3rd RC33 Regional Conference Asia: India”**, and take place on site at the **Indian Institute for Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee, India) from Monday, February 20th, to Sunday, February 26th, 2023**. The six-day conference aims at continuing a global dialogue on methods and should attract methodologists from all over the world and all social and spatial sciences (e. g. anthropology, area studies, architecture, communication studies, computational sciences, digital humanities, educational sciences, geography, historical sciences, humanities, landscape planning, philosophy, psychology, sociology, urban design, urban planning, traffic planning and environmental planning). The conference programme will include keynotes, sessions and advanced methodological training courses. With this intention, we invite scholars of all social and spatial sciences and other scholars who are interested in methodological discussions to suggest an abstract to any sessions of the conference. All papers have to address a methodological problem.

Please find more information on the above institutions on the following websites:

- Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (GCSMUS): <https://gcsmus.org/>
- ISA RC33: <http://rc33.org/>
- ESA RN21: www.europeansociology.org/research-networks/rn21-quantitative-methods
- IIT Roorkee: <https://www.iitr.ac.in/>

If you are interested in getting **further information on the conference** and other GCSMUS activities, please **subscribe to the SMUS newsletter** by registering via the following website: <https://lists.tu-berlin.de/mailman/listinfo/mes-smusnews>

Conference Sessions:

1. Co-Production (of Knowledge) as Pathway to Decolonization of Knowledge in the Global South
2. Decolonizing Social Science Methodology
3. Fieldwork in the Global South – Shedding Light into the Black Box
4. Assessing the Quality of Survey Data
5. Comparing Social Survey Data Collected During a Global Crisis? The Uncertainty of Comparative Research
6. Culturally Sensitive Approaches – Potential New Directions of Empirical Research

7. Application of Quantitative Techniques in Spatial Analysis
8. Ethnography as Spatial-Temporal Method
9. Ethnographic Methods: Constructing Public Space
10. Visualizing Urban Nature: Ethnographic Approaches and Explorations
11. Multimodal Data Integration for Spatial Research
12. How Modality Matters? Learning from the Multiplicity of (Non-)Digital Discourse Analytical Approaches
13. Discourse Analysis, Historical Analysis and Biographical Research: Multi-Method Approaches in Interpretive Empirical Research
14. The Individual and the City: Urban Life Stories
15. Measuring Change in Urban Space(s)
16. The Longue Durée in the 21st-Century Social Sciences: Methodological Challenges of Analyzing Long-Term Social Processes
17. Design Methods for Accessibility and Social Inclusion
18. Applying Spatial Methods in Homelessness Studies: Methodological and Ethical Challenges
19. Analysing Hidden Forms of Violence and their Spatialities: The Methodological Challenges of the Research on Intimate Partner Violence and Sexualized Violence
20. Spatial Methods in Healthcare Research
21. Methods of Transnational Organisational and Economic Research
22. Methods for Studying the Spatial Dimension of Global Digital Infrastructures
23. Digitalization, Political Participation and Transformation in the Global South
24. Cross-Cultural Research Methods in Community-Oriented Approaches in Human Behavior
25. Spatial Methods in Transdisciplinarity for Urban Sustainability
26. Methodological Overlaps, Misunderstandings and Conflicts between Spatial Planning and Social Sciences

Submission of Abstracts

If you are interested in **presenting a paper**, please **submit an English-language abstract** containing the following information to SMUS India 2023 via the official conference website (<https://gcsmus.org/conferences/india/>) **between 15.06.2022 and 15.07.2022**.

- Session the paper is submitted to
- Paper Title
- Speakers (= name(s), email address(es), institutional affiliation(s))
- 500-2,000 Word Abstract (= short description of the proposed talk. The abstract should explain which methodological problem is addressed, why this is relevant, how the paper refers to the session and what the general line of argument will be.)

The conference organizers will inform you by **15.09.2022**, if your proposed paper has been accepted for presentation at the conference. For further information, please see the conference website or contact the session organizers.

Please also kindly **forward this call to anybody to whom it might be of interest.**

Best wishes,

Program Chair

Gaurav Raheja

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SMUS India Lead Partner
IIT Roorkee
India

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SMUS Director & RC33 Past President
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Department of Humanities & Social Sciences
IIT Roorkee

Call for Abstracts: “The Individual and the City: Urban Life Stories” (Deadline: 15.07.2022)

We hereby invite you to submit an abstract for the Session “**The Individual and the City: Urban Life Stories**” at the “3rd International and Interdisciplinary Conference on **Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability**” (“SMUS Conference”), which will simultaneously be the “3rd RC33 Regional Conference Asia: India”, and take place on site at the **Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee** (IIT Roorkee, India) from **Monday, February 20th, to Sunday, February 26th, 2023**.

*Session Organizer: Johannes Becker (University of Göttingen, Germany),
johannes.becker@sowi.uni-goettingen.de*

How do cities affect the lives of their inhabitants? This question has been relevant for socio- logical research since the publication of Georg Simmel's essay “The Metropolis and Mental Life” (1903). The question how cities influence life courses and life stories has not lost its relevance for the social sciences, on the contrary. Cities continue to grow, and generally, urbanization is still on the rise. Processes such as gentrification, densification, segregation and precarization may have direct outcomes on the life courses and life stories of their inhabitants. However, it would be too one-sided to ask only how cities determine people. The relation can be better captured as the mutual constitution of individuals and city, city life and city society. Thus, cities are shaped by those who inhabit them with their biographies and their everyday interactions, by political and social activism, and by those who govern and administer city life. This session welcomes papers which deal with the interrelations and mutual constitution of individuals and cities. It speaks to social scientists from different disciplines who are interested in the general guiding question of how urban contexts influence life courses and life stories and how cities have been formed and changed in the past and the present by their inhabitants. Contributions should be based on empirical research and might discuss theoretical challenges and practical aspects of studying the interconnection between individuals and cities. Possible questions include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) How does the city affect life histories and life stories? (b) How are urban contexts co-constituted by inhabitants' biographies and interactions between them? (c) How can we explore a city's history by analyzing biographies and life stories? (d) Which (combinations of) methods are suitable for research on the interrelations between individuals and cities? (e) What role is played in biographies by ‘urban materialities’ and geographical features? (f) How can we compare living in urban areas and living in rural areas on the basis of biographies? (g) Are there differences in the relations between individuals and cities in different parts of the world?

NEW BOOKS AND JOURNAL ARTICLES

Binationale Herkunft und Zugehörigkeit. Biographische Aushandlungsprozesse junger Erwachsener in Marokko und der Schweiz

Gwendolyn Gilliéron

Qualitative Fall- und Prozessanalysen. Biographie – Interaktion – soziale Welten, Bd. 21
Opladen, Berlin & Toronto: Verlag Barbara Budrich 2022

OPEN ACCESS, link to the publication:

<https://shop.budrich.de/en/product/binationale-herkunft-und-zugehoerigkeit/>



In this research, I show how young adults of binational origin in Morocco and Switzerland repeatedly establish a subjective balance between national discourses of belonging, social inclusion and exclusion and their own adolescent individuation needs. Using autobiographical narrative interviews with young adults in both countries and drawing on Erving Goffman's stigma theory I show that a binational origin is not so much an irritation for the young adults themselves, but rather becomes a challenge because it is problematized by society. I then developed four types of the creative ways of managing stigmatization, which I call *subjective balance*: 1) Finding a synthesis, 2) Developing an expert attitude, 3) Looking for alternative spaces of belonging, and 4) Establishing normality. These subjective balances describe the attempt to minimize the tensions between experiences of othering and the self-perception.

Die Autorin untersucht, wie junge Erwachsene binationaler Herkunft in Marokko und der Schweiz immer wieder ein subjektives Gleichgewicht herstellen zwischen nationalen Zugehörigkeitsdiskursen, sozialen Ein- und Ausschlussprozessen und eigenen adoleszenten Individuationsbedürfnissen. Anhand autobiographisch-narrativer Interviews mit jungen Erwachsenen in den beiden Ländern und mit Rückgriff auf die Stigma-Theorie von Erving Goffman wird aufgezeigt, dass eine binationale Herkunft nicht so sehr für die jungen Erwachsenen selbst eine Irritation darstellt, sondern vielmehr durch die Gesellschaft problematisiert und zu einer Herausforderung wird.

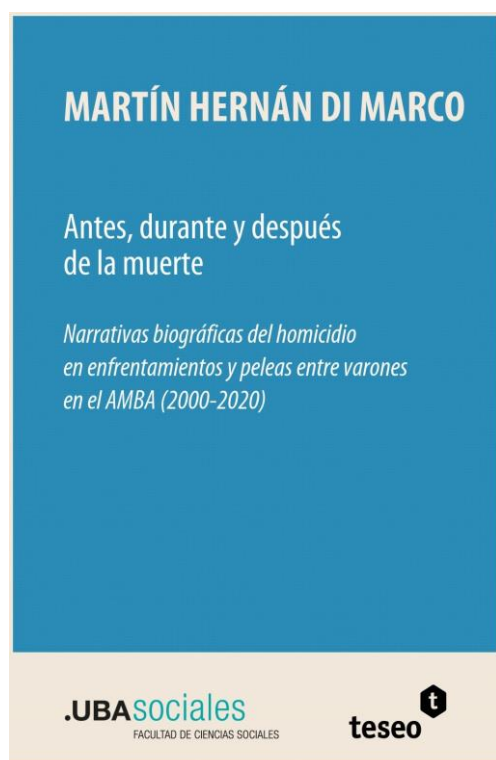
Antes, durante y después de la muerte. Narrativas biográficas del homicidio en enfrentamientos y peleas entre varones en el AMBA (2000-2020).

[Before, during and after death. Biographical narratives of perpetrators of male-male homicide in the context of quarrels and interpersonal conflicts in Metropolitan Buenos Aires (2000-2020)].

Martín Hernán Di Marco

Buenos Aires: Teseo, 2022.

<https://www.teseopress.com/antesduranteydespues/>



This book analyses the sense-making processes of homicide and physical violence amongst cis-gender men (aged 18-32) who caused the death of other men during fights and confrontations in Metropolitan Buenos Aires between 2000 and 2020. Drawing upon a literature review of homicide perpetrators in five thematic areas (revolving around biographies, meanings, experiences, masculinities, and accounts), this study fills a research gap in the lethal violence field: the meanings conveyed by homicide perpetrators. In order to inquire about their life stories, the analysis is based on theories and concepts of the social studies of violence, masculinities studies and narrative theory.

A qualitative, biographical, and collaborative methodology was employed, framed in a hermeneutic-narrative perspective. The fieldwork consisted of 62 narrative interviews, co-constructed lifelines and participant observations in prison and residences of the interviewees.

Based on a convenience sampling strategy, twenty biographical cases were reconstructed. The corpus was analysed with an inductive process of thematic coding and hermeneutic case reconstruction. The analysis considered the thematisation, sequencing and structuration of the stories.

The results of the study are organised in three main domains of the violent death sense-making processes: stories about their biographical backgrounds, experiential-situational dynamics of the homicides, and explanatory accounts of the event. First, the analysis of biographical turning-points and lay theories about their own lives indicates a *stoic interpretation* of their worldviews: a rationality at hand to give meaning to themselves and their lived experiences, their interlocutors and, consequently, experienced and performed violence. The *positive appraisal* of painful experiences is an essential element of this rationality. The topics and events which are positively valued vary in relation to their trajectories and social networks: namely, narratives of marginalised young men illustrate that the homicide they committed does not imply *per se* a turning-point and that, simultaneously, being imprisoned can be experienced as a biographical opportunity.

Second, from the analysis of the experience of killing (their emotions, ways of perceiving the opponent and the audiences) three experiential axes emerged, which are relevant in the situational construction of the self: *evaluation*, *threat*, and *promotion*. A phenomenological model was designed to explain how these elements interact, enabling the performance of violence. Thus, this model describes the emotional pathways around confrontational fear and tension, allowing men to “successfully” kill. The “inevitability” of the aggression and the defence of the self are two core aspects that emerged in the narrated situations. The concept of *viscerality* is put forward to describe an experience that goes beyond the naturalisation of violence, indicates “doing gender” performance and highlights the bodily dimension of physical confrontations amongst men.

Third, eight *narrative explanations* about the homicides were identified: “rebel”, “affected”, “fool”, “either he or me”, “repeating the story”, “gang”, “betrayed” and “victim.” These scripts use different narrative logics to incorporate, exclude, highlight or silence various aspects of these lives and their contexts. The accounts are structured around an explanatory *locus* (individual-collective) and their perspectives on agency and ontology of change (capacity-no capacity). The elements comprised in these accounts (life normality-abnormality, among others) indicate the systems of relevance taken into account to manage these narratives. Moreover, the use and relevance given to the term decision shows the underlying logic which enables the labelling, negotiation and reconfiguration of meaning about intentionality, decision, violence and homicide itself.

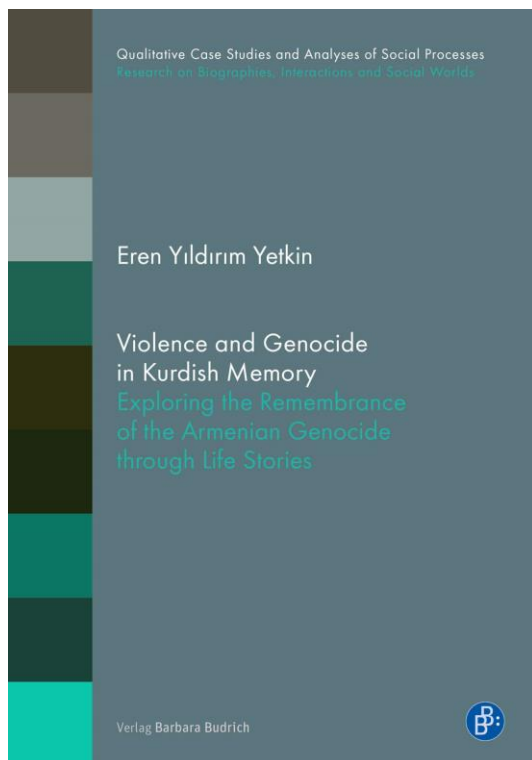
The combined analysis of the domains allows to make two statements. Firstly, men can perform violence and commit a homicide, and not “be” violent in their own mind. Secondly, complementing the previous point, not all the presentations of the self imply that the men distanced themselves from violence. This result is particularly relevant, since it indicates that there are symbolic conditions of possibility for men to identify with lethal violence without compromising their self: “being violent” can be the result of a successful narrative management.

This thesis shows that, in order to comprehend lethal violence, it does not suffice to understand meaning separated from action, social interaction without narratives, nor biography without self-presentation. A comprehensive analysis of violence “requires” empirically-grounded elements that inquire about these domains and their articulation. The sense-making of lethal violence is ambivalent and polyphonic, as it shows that social actors employ expert knowledges and labels, as well as lay and hybrid theories to signify this event. These actions are not simply neutralisation or justification strategies: they are part of the rationalisations of their experiences and the foundation for how they relate to penal institutions. Thus, this thesis allows a review of popularised concepts, such as naturalisation of violence, honour, and gender-based violence.

Violence and Genocide in Kurdish Memory. Exploring the Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide through Life Stories

Eren Yildirim Yetkin

Qualitative Fall- und Prozessanalysen. Biographie – Interaktion – soziale Welten, Bd. 24
Opladen, Berlin & Toronto: Verlag Barbara Budrich 2022



Kurdish memories of the Armenian Genocide challenge the systematic denialism established by the Turkish state structures and foster new possibilities of coming to terms with the past. This book examines Kurdish biographies, especially from Van, Turkey, and explores the dynamics of intertwined remembrance regimes concerning the political violence on Armenians and Syriac Christians of Ottoman imperial subjects and on Kurdish citizens of Turkey. These life stories shed light on the complexity of remembering, including collective and individual memory of violence, perpetration, and victimhood from past and present.

The author focuses on the Kurdish collective and individual memories through reconstructing biographical narrative interviews and ethnographic data. Based on such empirical inquiry, Yetkin argues that the genocide memory helps the Kurdish society articulate,

describe and discuss its own experiences with the state and political violence. Thus, denialism as a systematic notion by the Turkish state apparatus appears to be read accurately when the ongoing state violence on Kurds is problematised parallelly. Alternative younger voices questioning the forefathers' involvement in the persecution have repeatedly confronted Kurdish positions in politics and civil society fostering critical discussions on the past – underscoring reconciliation with Armenians yet employing anachronistic patterns of storytelling. They have opened up new trajectories based on their experiences. Hence, the author understands the situation as a multi-faceted and multi-layered memory complexity that contains interwoven narratives starting the Kurdish social time with the genocidal violence on Armenians and Syriac Christians of the region and pointing out continuous oppression. In short, a sphere of contested and multidirectional memories challenging foundations of denialism and settled stories emerges within this context and makes the Kurdish experiences discussable.

Von den Nazis vertrieben. Autobiographische Zeugnisse von Emigrantinnen und Emigranten. Das wissenschaftliche Preisausschreiben der Harvard Universität aus dem Jahr 1939

Detlef Garz

*Qualitative Fall- und Prozessanalysen. Biographie – Interaktion – soziale Welten, Bd. 22
Opladen, Berlin & Toronto: Verlag Barbara Budrich, 2021.*



Wie veränderten sich unter der Nazi-Herrschaft Leben und Alltag derer, die verfolgt wurden? Ein außergewöhnliches wissenschaftliches Preisausschreiben der Harvard Universität stellt im Jahr 1939 diese Frage und sammelt über 180, zum Teil umfangreiche autobiographische Manuskripte von Emigrantinnen und Emigranten aus dem nationalsozialistischen Deutschland sowie aus Österreich. Der Korpus ist bis heute weitgehend unerschlossen. Detlef Garz widmet sich in umfassender Weise dem Preisausschreiben und rückt die Lebensgeschichten der Teilnehmenden in den Mittelpunkt: ausführliche Erfahrungen des Lebens vor 1933, das (Er-)Leiden, der Widerstand, die erfolgte Emigration zwischen 1933 und 1939 sowie die Ankunft und Neueinrichtung in den aufnehmenden Ländern. Er errichtet damit ein Fundament, sowohl zur Erschließung der autobiographischen Materialien als auch zum Verständnis exemplarischer Lebensverläufe sowie des Konzepts der (moralischen) Aberkennung.

Why? How Perpetrators of Male-Male Homicide Explain the Crime

Martín Hernán Di Marco

Journal of Interpersonal Violence. March 2022

This paper identifies the explanatory narratives used by perpetrators of male-male homicide in Buenos Aires (Argentina) to make sense of this crime. Drawing upon narrative criminology and masculinities theories, this study enquires into the rationalisations of perpetrators, considering their emic terms, rationalities and stories. Fieldwork was conducted between 2016 and 2020, and a convenience sample strategy was employed for participant recruitment. The analysis is based upon seventy-three narrative-biographical interviews with offenders, and field observations in prisons and homes of former convicts. The corpus was analysed following an inductive thematic coding strategy using Atlas.Ti. Eight narratives were typified, considering how men talked about agency and change, and the explanatory locus of the stories: 'rebel', 'affected', 'idiot', 'either him or me', 'repeating the story', 'gang', 'betrayed' and 'victim'. These accounts revealed two paradoxes about violence perpetration storytelling and its discursive management: men can commit a homicide and present themselves as not responsible for it and, simultaneously, they use, reconfigure and negotiate expert theories and scientific labels to explain away, excuse and justify lethal violence. This study argues that accounts are not merely neutralisation strategies, but the rationalisations of the perpetrators' experiences, and the foundation for how they relate to and inhabit penal institutions. This paper contributes to the understanding of how those explanations shape past and future actions, and how masculinities, biographical processes and violence performance are interconnected.

Keywords: Argentina; accounts; homicide; life story; masculinity; narratives; perpetrators; violence.

Ethnographie und Biographieforschung. [Ethnography and biographical research]

Johannes Becker/Gabriele Rosenthal

In: Pöferl, Angelika/ Schröer, Norbert (Hrsg.) (2022), Handbuch soziologische Ethnographie. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag, 367-382.

In unserem Beitrag diskutieren wir unterschiedliche Möglichkeiten für eine methodenplurale Forschung, bei der sowohl ethnographische als auch biographische Methoden eingesetzt werden können und die sich an den Erfordernissen des zu untersuchenden Feldes orientiert. Insbesondere mit der Hilfe von zwei Fallbeispielen aus unserer Forschung in Jordanien verdeutlichen wir die Vor- und Nachteile von lang anhaltenden Beobachtungen, in die biographische Interviews integriert werden, im Unterschied zu biographischen Interviews, die mit kurzen Beobachtungseinheiten verknüpft sind.

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