

Biography and Society



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



Biography
and Society

NEWSLETTER/JULY 2021

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENCY

Dear Colleagues,

With this letter, we would first of all like to extend our thanks to all of you who made the virtual ISA Forum such a great success – session organizers, chairs, presenters, and all those who took part in the lively discussions. From different sides we were congratulated for our diverse program, the high quality of the contributions and especially for the high number of attendants at our sessions, which exceeded those of some of the larger RCs by far. We were really happy to be able to stay in touch with you despite the online format and to see so many familiar and new faces.

Despite these positive experiences, our lives are still considerably shaped by the ongoing pandemic. We have already written extensively about this issue in our previous two Newsletters, but we are still struck by the level of inequality the pandemic has revealed. It continues to determine access to vaccines and treatment, as well as the risk of becoming infected. The pandemic and its repercussions will stay with us for many years – and we will continue to feel it in the RC 38.

As all of you will have noticed, the next World Congress of Sociology in Melbourne, Australia, has been shifted to 2023. We all hope that we will be able to gather face-to-face. We will get in touch as soon as we hear more about the organization of the congress, and the deadlines which apply for RC 38. This also means that the term of our presidency has been extended by one year. Maria Pohn-Lauggas and Johannes Becker will serve as program organizers for the World Congress.

We hope you will have fun reading our Newsletter, which notably includes reports of all our sessions at the ISA Forum in February, as well as new publications and calls.

Best wishes to all of you.

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

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 June 2021.

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

CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENCY	2
CONFERENCES	5
NEWS FROM REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS.....	17
CALL FOR CHAPTER CONTRIBUTIONS.....	18
PUBLICATIONS.....	19
RC 38 BOARD 2018-2022.....	32

CONFERENCES

Reports from the RC 38 session at the IV ISA Forum of Sociology



We asked session organizers and chairs to send us very short reports of our successful sessions at the ISA Forum of Sociology. Some authors decided to make more detailed reports, and you will find here both short and long reports. We would like to thank all authors for their contributions.

Discourse Analysis, Historical Analysis and Biographical Research: Multi-Method Approaches in Interpretive Empirical Research

Joint Sessions of RC 33 and RC 38, organized by Gabriele Rosenthal (University of Göttingen) and Maria Pohn-Lauggas (University of Göttingen), chaired by Maria Pohn-Lauggas and Miriam Schäfer (University of Göttingen)

In these two Joint Sessions, ten people presented their research. That so many people (around 50) participated in each session shows the interest in methodological discussions. It became clear that there are various possibilities to combine methods within the scope of biographical research to gain deeper insights and to open up different perspectives on a research topic. The presenters showed how they used a combination of methods ranging from different interview techniques to the analysis of visual material and ethnographic field notes, to name just a few. Besides the discussions on methodological implications, the presenters gave very interesting insights into different research projects and their findings.

Presentations: "Visual Biographies in the Context of Social Media – How to Get Access to Various (visual) Biographies within a Lifetime" by Elisabeth Mayer (University of Vienna, Austria); "The Performance of Italian Muslim Women: Methodological Implications" by Letteria Fassari (University of Rome Sapienza, Italy) and Gioia Pompili (Department of Economical and Social Science, Italy); "Visual and Audiovisual Sources in (auto) Biographical Research – Theoretical and Methodological Notes" by Maria Helena Abrahão (UFPEL, Brazil); "The Multi-Method Approach in Interpretive

Empirical Research As a Way to Ensure Interviewer Safety" Marcelo de Lima" (Centro Universitário Uniftec, Brazil); "Mothers in Domestic Violence Context and Her Point of View about Children: Biographical Research of Battered Woman" by Kamila Ludwig (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil); "Triangulation of Biographical Narrative Interviews and Expert Interviews – Relations between Teachers' Biography and Their Practical Theory" by André Epp (University of Education Karlsruhe, Germany); "Biography and Organization – Potentials of Biographical and Ethnographic Research Methods in the Field of Police Research" (Miriam Schaefer, Georg-August-University Göttingen, Germany); "Integration As a Discursive Construction – a Reconstruction of Understandings of 'integration' in Germany" by Stefan Roehrer (Institute for Employment Research, Germany); "Biographical Interviews and Observation to Find Women's Prison Interpretation" by Karina Reif (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil); "Psycho-Societal Empirical Interpretive Analysis. the Materiality of Human Subjectivity" by Henning Salling Olesen (Roskilde University, Denmark)

Miriam Schäfer, Maria Pohn-Lauggas (Germany)

Doing Biographical Research Under Conditions of Pandemic: Methodological Challenges

Organized and chaired by Minna K. Ruokonen-Engler (Goethe University & Institut for Social Research Frankfurt) and Tazuko Kobayashi (Hitotsubashi University)

and

Methodical Innovations and Biographical Research in Times of Covid-19

Organized by Hermílio Santos (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul) and Michaela Köttig (Frankfurt University of Applied Studies), chaired by Michaela Köttig

The question how Covid-19 pandemic influences biographical research, was discussed in two RC 38 sessions during the digital ISA Forum Conference 2021. The first session, *Doing Biographical Research Under Conditions of Pandemic: Methodological Challenges and Methodical Innovations* with five papers from Japan (Naomi Noire), UK (Ljudmila Nurse & Lisa Moran), Belgium (Me-Linh Riemann, Markieta Domecka & Valeria Pulignano), Germany (Lucas Cé Sangalli & Victoria Taboada Gómez) and Argentina (Valeria Dabegnigno), opened up wide perspectives on the methodological challenges and methodical adaptations in different geographical settings. In reference to their empirical research projects, the speakers discussed how the pandemic had forced them to modify their ongoing research projects and teaching settings. It had led to an increased reflexivity and flexibility as well as to a modification and an innovation of new research methods. For example, internet-based students' projects had emerged to document the collective memory on the pandemic and face-to-face biographical interviews had been transformed into technologically mediated interview encounters via conference platforms and different means of telecommunications. Despite the advantage of organizing interviews online in a spontaneous and flexible manner without travelling, the pandemic situation has made it more difficult to reach people with limited access to technology or weak Wi-Fi connections. As the speakers showed, the methodical adaptations pose general methodological questions concerning the biographical knowledge production under the pandemic and force us to deepen our understanding of interview in-

teraction and the interview setting as these are not only shaped by the research tools, but also by the social positions and geopolitical locations. These questions were deepened in the second RC 38 session *Biographical Research in Times of Covid-19* with invited papers from Germany and Brazil. The session focused on the discussion of the research reality of biography researchers. The role of connectivity and staying in touch with the interviewees during the Covid-19 pandemic was underlined (Johannes Becker & Arne Worm), as this has made it possible to learn more about the way, how the life realities, family dynamics and state measures are interrelated in the situation of a crisis. Moreover, the differences between face-to-face and online interviews were worked out (Hermilio Santos & Priscila Susin); face-to-face interviews on the research site seemed to be more focused on shared knowledge between interviewers and interviewees, while the online interviews led to a discussion of the off-shore reality in a more detailed way. The insecure internet connection, however, posed a challenge for the researchers, especially when the connection broke down while narrating stressful experiences. Commenting on the papers, Monica Massari from Italy underlined that both papers showed how the pandemic has created new and unpredictable research situations. This has not only led to a creative use of new technologies, but even to more intensive research relationships. Massari raised the question, whether and how this can merge into the research results and which new ethical questions this might rise. During the lively discussion that followed, participants had the possibility to share their own research experiences. It became obvious that doing research under pandemic conditions has required a high degree of flexibility and fast decision-making. As the communication between researchers and interviewees has changed significantly, new forms of liabilities have arisen affecting possible future interactions. In consequence, both RC 38 sessions underlined the importance of continuing biographical research despite the changes and limitations that have been caused by the pandemic and suggested the importance of a pragmatic, responsible and ethical research approach. The pandemic situation has not only resulted in the modification of research tools, means of communication and research relationship, but has shown that biography researchers are able to get deep insights into the everyday lives of people living under pandemic conditions. Our task as biography researchers is to document this current development in a manner that can be used productively in the future research.

Minna K. Ruokonen-Engler, Michaela Köttig (Germany)

Social Protests and Biographical Implications

Organized and chaired by Gwendolyn Gillieron, Sara Park (Kobe University) and Eren Yetkin (Goethe University Frankfurt; Koblenz University of Applied Sciences)

We had the chance to get insights into three vibrant empirical studies on political activism and its implication on biographies during our session. All three papers by Sarah THOMSEN, Sevil ÇAKIR-KILINÇOĞLU and Annette HILSCHER have criticized the existing terminologies that can't fully grasp what occurs in the biographical trajectories. In the end, the participants engaged in a rich discussion on questions such as: How does political activism lead to a biographical transformation process(es)? What do new social movements have in common with movements from the radical right? What are the differences and resemblances of the presented movements? If and how can we investigate political activism in the 'global south' without imposing Western concepts? What does being an activist mean in particular socio-political

contexts? In what way can political actions be seen as an individualistic every-day practice? Which biographical experiences lead to resistance and political activism?

In collaboration with the session Activism, Resistance and Biography, we organized a virtual coffee break meeting Saturday morning to continue our discussion. That informal gathering made it possible to exchange ideas. Furthermore, it was an important moment of networking. As usual, the coffee break was too short, and we had to leave soon for the Business meeting of the RC38.

Gwendolyn Gillieron (Germany), Sara Park (Japan), Eren Yetkin (Germany)

Activism, Resistance and Biography

Organized and chaired by Eva Bahl and Sevil Çakır-Kılınçoğlu (University of Göttingen)

The interest in our session was high (38 participants) and we had a lively discussion during the Q&A. The questions revolved around the differences in doing research on right-wing and left-wing political movements, especially in terms of field access, and the analysis of individual motivations and biographical constellations that encourage becoming involved in (and benefiting from) political activism.

The presentations in our session were: "Biographies and the Limits of Censorship: Methodological Frontiers" by Jaime SANTOS JUNIOR (Federal University of Paraná, Brazil) and Marilda Aparecida MENEZES (Federal University of ABC, Brazil); "Time and the Self: Autobiographical Storytelling in the Narrative Economy" by Marian BURCHARDT (University of Leipzig, Germany); "From Supporters to Activists. the Case of the Young Poles Supporting the Right-Wing Movement" by Mateusz KAROLAK, Justyna KAJTA and Adam MROZOWICKI (University of Wroclaw, Poland); "Political Participation of Migrants in Germany. Biographical Perspectives" by Irini SIOUTI (Institute for Social Research Frankfurt, Germany); and "Decolonizing Knowledge through Narrative. the Kurdish Case on Violence and Injustice" by Eren YETKIN (Koblenz University of Applied Sciences, Germany).

With presenters from different geographical areas (Brazil, Germany, Poland) focusing their research on different world regions (South Africa, Turkey, Poland, Germany and Brazil), the variety of perspectives was impressive and made the session interesting for comparisons and discussions in respect of the applicability of classical or Global-North-based social movement research in the Global South.

As another RC 38 session (Social Protests and Biographical Implications, organized and chaired by Gwendolyn Gillieron, Sara Park and Eren Yetkin) had a very similar focus, we decided to collaborate. Consequently, we exchanged papers while organizing the sessions and organized a joint coffee-break session. The idea of the coffee break was to facilitate deeper reflections and discussion, since our new virtual reality cuts out the "interspaces" of exchange.

Eva Bahl, Sevil Çakır-Kılınçoğlu (Germany)

Life Stories and Life Histories in the Context of Authoritarian Regimes

Organized by Gabriele Rosenthal (University of Göttingen) and Artur Bogner (University of Bayreuth); chaired by Gabriele Rosenthal and Sevil Çakir Kilinçoglu (University of Göttingen)

Bringing together a diverse group of researchers and research interests, with a focus on the Global South, and with 46 people attending its online meeting, our session attracted the attention of a wide international audience. Despite the limited time, all four contributors successfully delivered their presentations and received a lot of questions from the highly engaged participants. The presentations revolved around the various challenges involved in collecting the life histories of people who have been or still are living in difficult conditions, and the innovative methods used in collecting and analyzing the data. The questions, on the other hand, focused on the obstacles likely to hinder the interviewees from telling their life stories, the possible impacts of the interviews on the interviewees, and finally the character of the relationship between the interviewer and interviewee.

The oral presentations were as follows: "Life Histories in the Shadow of the Stasi" by Peter RIEKER (University of Zurich, Switzerland); "The Collaborative Storytelling Method – a Way to Tell One's Own Story in the Name of Another?" by Aisha-Nusrat AHMAD (International Psychoanalytic University Berlin, Germany), Phil LANGER (International Psychoanalytic University Berlin), Khesraw MAJIDI (Humboldt University Berlin, Germany), and Shereen ABDELNABI (International Psychoanalytic University Berlin, Germany); "We- and Self-Presentations of Refugees from Sudan in Germany: How Ethnic Belonging Shapes Life Stories" by Lucas CÉ SANGALLI (University of Göttingen, Germany); "Hatice's Tears: Migrants from Turkey" in Brazil by Maria do Carmo GONÇALVES (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil).

Gabriele Rosenthal (Germany), Sevil Çakir Kilinçoglu (Germany)

Indigenous Peoples and the Challenges of Their Rights from the Perspective of their Different Biographies

Organized and chaired by Maria Sarah Telles

It featured the presentation of four excellent papers, which ensured an exciting debate, despite the limited time. Three of them dealt with specific themes of the indigenous peoples in Chile, Paraguay and Brazil, and a fourth paper about a quilombola community. It was notable that, without being included in the section's abstract, the four papers unveiled situations of vulnerability and resistance of women belonging to the groups analysed.

Presentations:

Biography and Leadership. A Biographical and Discourse Analysis of Indigenous Women in Paraguay, Victoria TABOADA GÓMEZ, Georg-August Universität Göttingen, Germany; The Biographical Struggle on Belonging to the Mapuche We-Group: A Case Narrative, Johanna SAGNER TAPIA and Viviana HULIÑIR, Universidad de La Frontera, Chile; The Challenge of Indigenous Youth in the City: Between Identity and Its Erasure in the Urban Scenario, Based on Biographical Analysis of a Young Indigenous in Rio De Janeiro; Fernanda VIEIRA DE SANT'ANNA, UERJ/FAPERJ, Brazil and Maria Sarah TELLES, Pontifical Catholic University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Brazil; Mujeres En Movimiento En La Comunidad Quilombola Buriti Do Meio: Trayectorias Femeninas y

Estrategias Productivas; Ana Carolina LIMA, Pontifical Catholic University, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Maria Sarah Telles (Brazil)

The Individual and the City – Urban Life (Stories) a Neglected Area of Biographical Research

Organized by Johannes Becker and Nicole Witte (University of Göttingen); chaired by Maria Sarah Telles (Pontifical Catholic University, Rio de Janeiro) and Johannes Becker

This session, which had around 45 participants, was thematically linked to a former session at the ISA congress in Toronto (Biography and City), then organized as a joint session with RC 21. For both sessions we received an unusually high number of submissions, showing the interest in this thematical linkage. The presentations dealt with the mutual constitution of individuals and city, city life, and city societies in Ghana, Brazil, Israel and Poland and were discussed in a lively manner by the participants. Besides the connection between life courses and biographical constructions of city dwellers and urban life, urban growth and processes such as segregation, gentrification, de-industrialization and precarization, we also discussed which (combinations of) methods are suitable for research on biographies and cities. Interest was shown in the question of how to do mappings and how to combine them with biographical approaches. There was consensus among the participants that regarding the city from the perspective of – seemingly - individual life courses, experiences, and stories is an underresearched field in both biographical research and urban sociology, and that further research would be valuable.

The oral presentations were "Migrants and the Making of the City: A Biographical Study of Selected Community Leaders in the Neighborhood of Accra" by Steve TO-NAH (University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana); "Gender, Urban Social Movements and Struggle for Housing from an Interpretative and Biographical Perspective" by Priscila SUSIN (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil); "Haifa in Biographies – Biographies in Haifa" by Nicole WITTE, University of Göttingen, Germany); and "A Woman Worker's Life Story Rooted in the City History. A Case Analysis" by Ka-ja KAZMIERSKA (University of Lodz, Poland).

Nicole Witte, Johannes Becker (Germany)

The Meaning of Flight in Biographies

Organized and chaired by Susan Bell (Drexel University), Roswitha Breckner (University of Vienna) and Kathy Davis (VU University), who also chaired the session

It was very well attended, with more than 40 participants. Five papers were presented which focused on different experiences, conditions, and meanings of flight, thus giving a very rich insight into what flight can mean for biographies under certain historical and societal conditions.

The question of whether the external definition of "refugee" is accepted or rejected as a self-designation by refugees in different historical and social situations came up in the first contribution of Judith Gerson (Rutgers University, USA) who talked about 62

memoirs written by German Jewish refugees who resettled in the US between 1933 and 1941. While writing their memoirs after many years of living in the US in their 60s and 70s, mainly for their descendants and as family history, they called themselves immigrants and rejected the term refugee or survivor. This not least because they considered themselves "lucky" having been able to escape mass deportations and systematic extermination and focused on their first experiences upon arrival rather than on survival and death. Judith Gerson's paper was a beautiful example of how loaded terms around exile, dislocation, and migration can be and why we need to continue the affective and normative meanings for individuals in transit.

The question of how external labeling by refugee regimes and self-labeling interact in circumstances of flight was also taken up by Susan Bell (Drexel University, USA) and Lillian Walkover (University of California, San Diego, USA) in their paper on physicians forced to move mainly from Iraq, Turkey and Syria and then resettled, partly after longer stopovers in other countries, in the United States. Along two case studies they showed how international refugee regimes interact with US medical licensing regimes and how the formal designations of these regimes are handled strategically to become a "refugee physician" while not necessarily identifying themselves with the term "refugee".

Arne Worm (University of Göttingen, Germany) gave a talk about refugees from Syria who came to Germany that also focused on negotiating and dealing with the positionality as a refugee against the background of complex trajectories of flight, which, so he argued, need a transnational perspective for understanding them. In his presentation of two cases, he stressed the family and histories as well as the social circumstances in which participating in and developing a new life in a new context and society takes place, showing losses and opportunities inherent in these ambivalent situations.

The topic of re-negotiating social positions continued also in the paper of Matthias Schneider (Goethe-University, Germany) on refugees from Eritrea to Germany after 2020, but now focused on masculinities in connection to flight. In three case studies, he showed the way in which compulsory national service disrupted biographies of men and triggered the flight, and how the biographies (and masculinities) developed in the new contexts. This paper generated a lively discussion about some of the challenges of analyzing gender in biographical interviews.

Finally, in the last paper of the session Anna Schnitzer (University of Zürich, Switzerland) presented an intriguing case in which artwork performed in photography and film projects became a means of biographical work by a woman from a transnational background (Lebanon, Syria, Turkey) who ended up in Zurich / Switzerland. Through creative work she found a way to deal with difficult experiences: expressing and coping in a situation of feeling "stuck in the wrong place" and locked in isolation. The feeling of not being able to move was transformed into moving images against the background of a life story presented as a constant experience of loss.

All papers showed how complicated biographies in complex transnational flight trajectories can become and the multifarious ways of dealing with losses and tragedies involved in these processes. They negotiate pathways through formal and informal regimes and terminologies that reflect and creatively rework the circumstances in which they are situated, even as these circumstances limit and constrain possibilities.

Susan Bell (USA), Roswitha Breckner (Austria), Kathy Davis (Netherlands)

Biographical Perspectives on the Interrelation of Armed Conflicts, Migration, and Social Transformation

Organized by Arne Worm (University of Göttingen) and Steve Tonah (University of Ghana), chaired by Steve Tonah

In this session, papers were invited exploring *interrelations* between social transformation, collective violence and migratory trajectories from a biographical perspective. It was chaired by Prof. Steve Tonah (University of Ghana, Legon). The session wonderfully showed the potential of biographical approaches to reconstruct processes of socio-historic transformation and their consequences on phenomena such as migration, transnationalism or political activism.

Talks were given by: Natsuki Kondo (Nagoya Univ., Japan): *"How Youth in Rural Ghana Became 'Cadres' - Life Story of Actors in Popular Movements Under 1980s Military Rule"* / Frank Beier (TU Dresden, Germany): *"Women and Resistance: The Interplay of Individualization Processes and the Socialist Life Course Regime in the GDR"* / Rafaela Pannain (Brazilian Center for Analysis and Planning, Brazil), Maria Salgado and Jessica Horing (both Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil): *"Comparing Patterns of Mobilization in Armed Movements: Angola, Brazil and Nicaragua"* / Eva Bahl (Univ. Göttingen, Germany): *Ending up in Brazil – Leaving Situations of Collective Violence As a Long-Term Process*.

Zeila de Brito Fabri Demartini (Centro de Estudos Rurais e Urbano, Brazil) sent her talk as a written paper: *"Brazilians in Angola after 1975: Activities in Social Intervention"*.

Based on presentations dealing with quite different world regions and historical phases, we started a fruitful discussion on the relationality of "individual" and "collective", "agency" and "trajectory", and the thin line between "political" and "non-political" social action.

Arne Worm (Germany), Steve Tonah (Ghana)

Biography and 'Middle Class' in the Global South

Organized by Hendrik Hinrichsen and Johannes Becker (University of Göttingen); chaired by Johanna Sagner Tapia (Universidad de La Frontera) and Johannes Becker (University of Göttingen)

Introducing recent debates on 'middle classes' in the Global South into biographical research, this session included presentations dealing with diverse geographical settings ranging from Cameroon and Kenya to China and Argentina. Between 30 and 40 people took part in our session. The lively discussion focused on several key questions: first, how to define the new middle classes in the Global South, with a special focus on issues of "urban" vs. "rural" and family planning differences; second, different milieus of middle classes as well as political positions defining middle class; third, different methodological possibilities of understanding experiences and negotiating class belonging.

The oral presentations were "The Rise of an 'Indocile Middle Class' in Cameroon" by Gérard AMOUGOU (CERDAP Université de Yaoundé II); "The (Re)Making of the Chinese Working Class –Biographical Perspectives on Habitus Transformation and Social Inequality" by Yvonne BERGER (Technical University of Applied Sciences Rosenheim);

"How Is Social Class Lived? Conducting Interviews from a Phenomenological and Biographical Perspective" by Mercedes KRAUSE (Universidad de Buenos Aires); and "Biographical Strategies of Kenyan Middle Classes" by Gunter WEIDENHAUS (TU Berlin).

Johanna Sagner Tapia (Chile), Johannes Becker (Germany)

Strong Emotions in Biographical Research – Interviewing, Analyzing, Writing

Organized by Roswitha Breckner (University of Vienna), Kathy Davis (VU University) and Lena Inowlocki (Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences); chaired by Susan Bell (Drexel University)

There were six speakers, and the session was well attended with nearly 60 participants. Speakers asked what can emotions of researchers (as well as interview partners) bring to biographical research and if, instead of being viewed as distractions or blocks to biographical research, they can become sources of knowledge and understanding. How might unconventional ways of interviewing, and alternative ways of interpreting and writing about biographical interviews, deepen our understanding of people's lives? And what can we learn from vulnerability and disappointment in instances when biographical interviews don't work out as planned?

Lena Inowlocki (Goethe-University Frankfurt, Germany) shared her thoughts about being biographically and emotionally involved in a research topic, by returning to the ethnographic protocols and fieldnotes written by her younger self in the 1990s when she interviewed three generations of women in displaced Jewish families, families similar to her own. She recalled feeling estranged and upset at the time especially when one of the women told her that her husband had been in a concentration camp as a child, but "thank God we never talk about it in the family". Her fieldnotes focused on this silence and her discomfort with the family's not talking about the topic of persecution. She located her discomfort in the context of discussions that telling about one's suffering and persecution would bring relief. Other interviews she did not write about because they felt too close. Although interviewing might seem easier when we are in similar biographical situations this illustrates the ambivalences of proximity. Looking back, she agrees with the interview partner who saw remembering as a public and political task. She proposed that autobiographical films and literature would be helpful to an understanding of what is communicated beyond words and to seeing models for how these dilemmas are addressed: As researchers, we are part of the action even if our research subjects and participants are the main protagonists; as "directors", we analyze our part in the action.

Kathy Davis (VU University, Netherlands) talked about biographical interviews with tango dancers. Her previous research about the sociology of the body, primarily with people with painful or traumatic experiences, had been emotionally charged. In contrast, she imagined these interviews – and the research overall – would be fun. To her surprise, during these biographical interviews more informants became emotional and even cried than in previous research when she had expected it. She described a biographical interview with a woman with tango music in the background during the interview. Throughout the interview, the woman illustrated what she said by dancing and shedding tears. Davis learned from this woman that tango makes space for sadness, where words are not necessary. During interviews, people re-enacted deeply embodied feelings that were hard to put into words. Tango opened

up a space for feelings in everyday life, and listening to the music, moving, and crying enabled people to talk about their feelings during interviews. In light of this, Davis asked how we might creatively rethink the ways we do biographical research so that our informants can share intense emotional experiences that are not easy to talk about.

Ina Schaum (Goethe- University, Germany) described her strong emotions during a biographical interview for her study of intimate relations. Listening to the woman describing in painstaking detail her on and off relationship with a man, Schaum felt in her "gut" that it was not a good idea to stay with him but did not visibly react. A week later, the woman informed her that she had ended the relationship. At first, Schaum imagined the interview had given the woman a voice and empowered her: a young woman blinded by love; the interviewer as feminist heroine. Later, while transcribing the interview, she became more and more uncomfortable as she saw her responses to the woman and realized they were not neutral. She began to question how her conception of empowerment may have silenced the woman and to wonder why it was important for the woman to tell her about the break-up. Researchers' strong emotions, especially difficult ones, are often silenced in order to produce sociological knowledge. Documenting and analyzing strong emotions as part of biographical research methodology makes a more nuanced analysis and should be included in the published work.

Minna-Kristiina Ruokonen-Engler (Goethe-University, Germany) continued the theme of including acknowledgement and reflection on interviewers' emotions. She focused on an instance of not getting an interview and used it as an opportunity to reflect on particular points of experiencing failure in the biographical research process, where initial anxiety might transform into feelings of disappointment, sadness, shame, and personal failure in an academic context. Anxiety is part of every research project that deals with human beings. Instead of adopting a disembodied, disaffected stance, we should recognize that during biographical interviews both interviewers and interview partners are vulnerable. This vulnerability has been made even clearer during the coronavirus pandemic.

She used a case from when she was a predoctoral student and was supposed to interview self-employed migrant women. She described feeling uncomfortable and uneasy during their interactions in the negotiation about an interview with the woman wondering why she was always categorized as a foreigner and saying Finns (like Ruokonen-Engler) were treated better in Germany than those from Iran (where the woman was from). The woman agreed to be interviewed in a month; when the time came, Ruokonen-Engler returned to the shop and the woman ultimately refused, a rejection that continues to haunt her today.

Monica Massari (University of Milan, Italy) had planned a study of Eritrean refugees, but this was impossible during the pandemic. Instead, she ended up with a case investigated by the European tribunal of the terrible conditions and treatments in Libyan detention centers, in which the material consisted of written texts and testimonies of refugees and asylum seekers as reported in the judicial files. This specific legal framework is limited, but nonetheless offers a perspective about the politics of migrants' voices: the possibility to speak, to be heard, to choose to speak, and the right to opacity.

She pointed out that emotions aren't just emotional states but relational, social and cultural practices; that is, affects that shape our understanding of pain, sadness, rage, shame. In addition, echoing previous speakers, biographical research is not just a technical business, and we should take an embodied approach at the intersection

of individual destinies, subjective experiences, and social, political, and historical contexts. Thus, researchers should look for approaches that can get into pain and suffering to an extent that wouldn't be possible in biographical interviewing.

Roswitha Breckner (University of Vienna, Austria) considered the emotional impact of photographs of Armenian genocide, notably whether and under what circumstances it is appropriate or acceptable to show them and how they can be seen without turning into voyeurism; do they elicit empathy, keep rage and wishes for revenge alive? She described her experience of showing the images during two sociology conferences 2009 and 2010. During the first talk she showed many photos of the historical record. She noticed some pain in people in the audience. One woman in the audience saw her family's experiences represented but said as long as Armenian genocide was not recognized, it is necessary to show them. In 2010, she reduced number of images to reduce pain for audience; but as she described in detail a prototypical photograph, she was overcome by emotions and could not continue speaking. The photograph became a "Punctum" (Barthes); it is culturally difficult to see children's suffering and for her personally the emotions of being left behind her own biographical experience. Getting close and keeping distance is inevitable when dealing with such images and becomes even more complicated with contemporary photographs.

The papers elicited a passionate discussion about the topics of self-care practices when researching traumatic experiences ("it's our job to be prepared to be uncomfortable and we need to teach our students how to be uncomfortable"), the danger of becoming self-indulgent when attending to researchers' strong emotions ("you have to walk through yourself and not get stuck in yourself in order to understand what is going on"); and the silences that inevitably appear in interviews requiring a different analytic approach ("scenic understanding"). The enthusiasm of the participants was reflected in the avalanche of comments at the end and the desire expressed by many to organize more sessions about the emotions involved in doing biographical research.

Roswitha Breckner (Austria), Kathy Davis (Netherlands), Lena Inowlocki (Germany)

Historical Sociology – Biographical Research – Multigenerational Research

Organized by Hendrik Hinrichsen (University of Göttingen) and Gabriele Rosenthal (University of Göttingen), chaired by Eva Bahl (University of Göttingen) and Arne Worm (University of Göttingen)

This session was a cooperation between RC 56 (Historical Sociology) and RC 38. It was planned to contribute to a further consolidation of the interrelation between Historical Sociology and Biographical Research and consisted of four papers that analyzed long-term social processes with a special emphasis on the actor's perspectives.

The presentations in this session were the following: "Generational Experiences and Biographical Differences Among European Migrant Workers and Their Offspring" by Ursula APITZSCH (Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main, Germany); "Reconstructing Processes of Settlement and Urbanization in Jordan: Advantages of Multigenerational Research" by Johannes BECKER and Hendrik HINRICHSSEN (University of Göttingen, Germany); "Multigenerational Immigrant Paths in São Paulo (1880-1950)" by Oswaldo TRUZZI (Universidade Federal de São Carlos, Brazil); and "The Impacts of Wartime Mobilization on Forming the Postwar Stratification System in Japan: Based on the Re-

constructed Life History Data of Social Stratification and Mobility Surveys" by Hachiro IWAI (Kyoto University, Japan).

With four speakers from three continents and time zones, there was a lively discussion on research methods and the accessibility of historical knowledge through archival sources and/or interviews. Another important topic that connected all four papers was the significance of generations as a practical and theoretical point of reference.

Eva Bahl (Germany), Arne Worm (Germany), Gabriele Rosenthal (Germany)

NEWS FROM REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The new CP29 “Biography and Society” in the Brazilian Society of Sociology (SBS)

This year, the scientific activities of the Brazilian Society of Sociology (SBS) debuted a format similar to that of the International Sociological Association (ISA), organizing its members into Research Committees (CPs) and Working Groups (GTs). Initially scheduled to be held at the Federal University of Pará (UFPA), in Belém, Brazil, the 20th Brazilian Congress of Sociology was conducted virtually due to the covid-19 pandemic. The online event marked the first reunion of the former Qualitative Methodologies GT, now structured as a Research Committee: CP29 Biography and Society. Currently under the coordination of Dr Hermílio Santos alongside Dr Wivian Weller and Dr Priscila Susin, the Research Committee 29 was promisingly inaugurated with 19 other members. On June 14th the first CP29 Business Meeting was held, in which a discussion for greater collaboration between researchers who use biographical methodologies in their scientific production took place. The committee also planned on the systematization of CP activities throughout the year. CP29 yearns to maintain transnational collaboration and to build a broader network with researchers from ISA's Research Committee 38: Biography and Society. For more information and contact: biografiasociedade@gmail.com

CALL FOR CHAPTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Lethal Violence and Meaning in the Americas

Research on lethal violence is growing rapidly in social sciences. Studies on victims and socio-structural determinants are essential to deepen knowledge about violence. However, research focused on perpetrators and their perspectives, biographies and narratives are relatively scarce. This call for chapter contributions for an edited peer-reviewed book is aimed at researchers studying lethal violence (homicide and/or femicide) in Latin America and the Caribbean from a perspective that captures perpetrators' views. Contributions from sociology, anthropology, criminology and political science, among other social sciences, are welcome. The book proposal will be edited by Martín Hernán Di Marco (CONICET, Argentina), Matías Bruno (CENEP/IDAES, Argentina) and Richard Snyder (Brown University, United States) and it will be submitted to Palgrave MacMillan.

Proposals for chapters must be presented in **English**, in the form of an abstract of **400 words**, including **4-6 key terms**. The abstract should include a **research question and/or objective, methodology, results** and main **conclusion/discussion**. Proposals should include the **personal data** of the authors (names, affiliations, addresses) and a short academic biography in a separate field. The deadline for submissions is August 15th, 2021. Abstracts should be sent to Martín Hernán Di Marco (mardimarco@sociales.uba.ar) and Matías Bruno (matiasb@cenep.org.ar).

PUBLICATIONS

Biography and Collective History

Michaela Köttig, Nicole Witte (eds.)

Weinheim: Beltz/Juventa 2021



This volume honors one of the leading international scholars in the field of sociological biographical research: Gabriele Rosenthal. Based on her work, the contributions deal, among other things, with collective belongings and (inter)national conflicts, (collective) experiences of violence and trauma in connection with war and forced migration, and the linking of perpetrator-victim relationships.

Der Band ehrt eine der international führenden, schulbildenden Vertreter_innen der soziologischen Biographieforschung: Gabriele Rosenthal. Angelehnt an ihr wissenschaftliches Werk beschäftigen sich die Beiträge u. a. mit kollektiven Zugehörigkeiten und (inter-)nationalen Konflikten, (kollektiven) Gewalterfahrungen und Traumatisierungen in Zusammenhang mit Krieg und Fluchtmigration sowie der Verknüpfung von Täter-Opfer-Beziehungen.

Contributions:

Nicole Witte/Michaela Köttig: Einleitung zum Buch. *Biographie und Kollektivgeschichte*

Giorgos Tsiolis/Irini Siouti: „Wenn ich Widerstand merke, dann mache ich erst recht weiter ...“ Im Gespräch mit Gabriele Rosenthal über ihre Geschichte als Biographieforscherin

Júlia Vajda: „Ich muss dieses Grauen überleben, damit eine Überlebende von der Hölle aller Höllen erzählen kann“. Gedanken zur europäischen Identität im Zusammenhang mit einer Shoah-Überlebenden, die zur „professionellen Erzählerin“ wurde

Éva Kovács: *Parallele Lesungen. Erzählungen von Trauma und sexualisierter Gewalt*

Roswitha Breckner: *Showing and Seeing Violence and Suffering in Photographs. An Essay*

Martina Schiebel: *Brüchige Gewissheiten. Eine Generation im Transformationsprozess*

Bettina Völter: *Befremdungen. Wahrnehmung von Differenz als Zugang zum Selbstverstehen*

Ingrid Miethe/Regina Soremski: *Bildungsaufstieg und gesellschaftliche Transformation*

Hee Young Yi: *Intersectional Experiences of Border Crossing – Marriage Migration – Migrant Work and the Transposition of Identity. Focusing on the Reconstruction of a North Korean Woman's Oral Life Histories*

Michaela Köttig: *Intergenerationale Aushandlung politischer Verortung*

Hanna Beneker/Regina Rätz: *Lehren und Lernen in der Forschungswerkstatt. Ein hervorragender Ort des Studierens, Forschens, der offenen Kommunikation und des Dialogs – am Beispiel der Sozialen Arbeit*

Maria Pohn-Lauggas: *„Ich will dort gehen, wo der gegangen ist.“ Die Analyse intergenerationaler Transmissionsstrukturen in der Biographieforschung*

David Becker: *Trauma, Wir-Bild und Selbstwerdung. Die Last der Narrative*

Artur Bogner: *Kollektive Gewalt – ein soziologisch relevantes Forschungsthema? Die „child soldiers“ der LRA in Uganda*

Nicole Witte: *Das Unsagbare ausdrücken. Zur rekonstruktiven Auswertung von Zeichnungen*

Johannes Becker/Hendrik Hinrichsen/Arne Worm: *Fluchtmigration von Syrien nach Jordanien im familiengeschichtlichen und regionalhistorischen Kontext. Zum Nutzen einer biographietheoretischen und figurationssoziologischen Forschungsperspektive*

Ute Zillig: *Viele Sein. Biographische Fallrekonstruktionen als verstehender Analysezugang zum Phänomen multiple Persönlichkeit*

Hermílio Santos: *On Relevance and Experience: Gabriele Rosenthal's Biographical Research from a Schutzian Perspective*

Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka: *Biographische Navigation durch kollektive Konstellationen*

Lifelong Learning in a Different Voice: Women Academics' Narratives of Retirement

The Retired Academic Women's Group: Tamar Appel, Leah Bar-Efrat, Freema Elbaz-Luwisch, Leah Hagoel, Rachel Hertz-Lazarowitz, Devorah Kalekin-Fishman, Ruth Katz, Liora Ore & Mechal Sobol

Tel Aviv: MOFET, in press.

This publication draws on the experience of nine retired Israeli women academics who have met as a group for about ten years to explore their experience as retirees, and who over the past 2 years have engaged in writing a book about this experience.

- The group was convened by a retired faculty member who invited female colleagues, some she knew well as research collaborators or friends, others she was interested in getting to know. Each of the women invited knew at least one or two others in the group. The author is a member of the group.
- The group has met monthly up to the present (nine years!), in coffee shops, at the university, or in members' homes.
- Over the past year, meetings have been held on Zoom due to closures and to our 'at-risk' status during the coronavirus pandemic.
- The meetings focused on different aspects of the general theme: the connections of "work" and "life". how each woman's academic work had influenced her personal and family life, how personal and family life impacted on work, and later, on leisure and creative activities engaged in by members (poetry, sculpture, ceramics, meditation, travel, reading). Over the years we listened to our own presentations of current research, discussed current research on retirement, and have also invited a number of guest speakers.
- Over time the group developed a high level of friendship and intimacy as personal and sometimes difficult stories were shared, listened to without judgment and responded to with empathy.

Background:

- Women academics are a privileged group within society,
- highly educated, high social status (albeit eroding rapidly), work in chosen fields, relative freedom to schedule their time
- nominal equality with male colleagues in university, college and other work settings
- **But** in practice women have a rougher road towards academic advancement (Toren & Moore 1998), which also impacts on salary; and their subjective experience as academics is often difficult (Taylor & Lahad 2018).

What happens in retirement?

- the discourse suggests that female retirees are now **'free'** to enjoy their lives (Gibson et al., 2014) though before retirement work was their pleasure
- women academics may be limited or deprived of resources and support needed to continue their academic pursuits.
- All retirees are subject to the social constraints of a discourse that sees the elderly as less able and having less to contribute to society (Hazan 2012).
- In general, the research on retirement did not appear to represent us and our experience adequately

Who are we?

- 8 Israeli Jewish women academics mostly living and working in Haifa and the surrounding area (a ninth member withdrew due to ill health two years ago)
- Aged between 68 and 92
- Three members were born in Israel; five others immigrated to Israel - one as a young child, prior to WWII, from Germany; the others as young women from the US, Canada, and Argentina. Most were already retired when the group was formed; today, the youngest member is approaching retirement from an academic position in a college
- From diverse fields of study: a sociologist of education, a social and educational psychologist, a specialist in educational counselling and psychotherapy; a science and math educator; a researcher in the areas of curriculum and teacher development; a sociologist specialized in family and social work; a medical sociologist; a medical doctor whose research is in immunology and public health, and a historian specialized in Afro-American history.
- All the participants engaged in teaching at various points in their careers; five of us were involved in teacher education.
- All of us are mothers and grandmothers; several have great-grandchildren.

The group decides to write a book

- Towards the close of the group's first meeting, there was a feeling of excitement and a sense that participants had shared diverse and deeply personal accounts of their lives. The possibility of recording the group's meetings and eventually using the material to put together a book was raised, but quickly shelved, partly due to the objections of one participant (who soon left the group), also due to awareness of technical difficulties some of us had experienced with such efforts in the past.
- After several years of meetings, the possibility of writing a book to present and discuss our experiences of life and retirement came back into focus, and began to take shape.
- Members slowly began to write their individual stories focused on how they became the retired academics they now are; these stories were presented to the group, one at each meeting, followed by discussion, feedback and further revision. Once all the members had written their stories, the chapters were shared round and each member gave feedback to one other member.

- Gradually the group realized that it was engaged in a form of collaborative auto-ethnographic and auto-biographical research (Roth, 2005; Hagoel and Kalekin-Fishman, 2015) that, while not entirely planned in advance, was both careful and critical.
- Further Zoom discussions focused on exploration of the various themes that emerged from the stories.

The group members' experience of academic and personal writing

As expected, all the participants had significant experience with diverse types of writing:

- *Traditional academic writing:*
 - all the group members engaged in more or less conventional academic and professional writing over the course of their careers (before and after official retirement) and in the genres appropriate to their fields
 - Most wrote academic papers and articles in different genres (both quantitative and qualitative);
 - Several participants wrote more practical/professional texts for use in work with students or clients in various educational settings: curricula, course texts, public health documents, case reports.
- *'Genre-bending' academic writing:*
 - Two participants worked together over a long period on an innovative auto-ethnographic study of the transition of one of the writers to a new field of study (Hagoel and Kalekin-Fishman, 2016)
 - One participant wrote a book examining autobiography as an educational genre (Elbaz-Luwisch, 2014)
 - Several academic articles and chapters in an autobiographical vein were written by participants
- *'Non-academic' poetry and prose writing:*
 - Several participants wrote poetry or prose, participated in writing workshops and gave attention to writing as a practice as well as an art.

Coming to write our stories

- Despite our familiarity with writing, writing our own stories proved to be a daunting task for all the group members!
- Writing styles are diverse, some more matter of fact, some more impressionistic
- How to write about difficult experiences, and about trauma? There were different takes on what might be "too personal"... some personal stories were written and told openly in the group but edited out of the final text mainly out of concern for family members who might be negatively affected by the story appearing in print.
- How to put together the academic and the personal? Each writer forged her own solution to this problem; the space allotted in the texts to discussion of the central academic questions that concerned each of us varies widely.

Collaborative auto-biography and/or autoethnography: an evolving methodology

- We didn't start out as a research group, and it was 4-5 years before we started to formulate the idea of writing a book about our experiences as retired academics
- The initial impetus for the book was the collective sense that as elders we have a lot of valuable experience to share, that we have good stories that are worth telling, and that our perspectives have not been represented in the literature on retirement to date.
- As researchers, we bring our theoretical sensibilities and our preferred methodologies to bear in whatever we do.
- When we came to give an account of the theoretical and methodological background to the book, we brought forward the experiences of several of us with auto-ethnographic and auto-biographical research, and realized that while these two approaches are not identical they both speak to what we had been doing all along in the group: talking about our experience, telling, writing and re-storying our lives, and thinking critically about all of it.

Interpreting our stories: shared themes, common concerns

- The impact of families of origin on our life and career stories
- The importance of relationships in our work settings no less than in our personal lives
- The multiple challenges of managing within a patriarchal organization culture
- The back-grounding of our roles as mothers (which have been important in the lives of every one of us) in the telling of our stories as academic
- the group's implicit and/or overt feminist position, and our criticism of the competition and alienation characterizing academic culture, as against the friendship and solidarity developed in the group

What do members say about the experience of being in the group?

"Our meetings were characterized by ease – there was no pressure, we had time, we didn't have to 'get things done' and yet we didn't waste time either, we did real, serious work in our discussions."

"Sincerity and openness were central, and this wasn't something to be taken for granted. Yes, I knew most of you beforehand, but I didn't know the successes, the failures, the feelings, the background... the way that I, and M. spoke about our mothers... there were breakthrough moments for each one of us, that brought us closer."

"It was a year after I was widowed, I was already retired...I no longer felt connected to the place I had worked... I felt that I needed a 'peer group'... and I found in this group exactly what I sought and more. The conversations were so rich, and there's no competition – that's so rare in groups."

"I belong to a lot of groups that meet regularly – family, colleagues, childhood friends and others, but this group is unlike any other - the intimacy and the companionship made it possible to talk without embarrassment about successes and failures."

"The openness, the warm atmosphere and the complete lack of a judgmental attitude was there from the beginning, and I didn't want to miss a single meeting."

"It was possible to talk about so many things that are difficult... there was so much honesty, and great respect for each person's views."

"When we began meeting I was a year away from retirement, and the group felt like an anchor... I started to feel that retirement was not just an ending, but also a beginning, an opening into something new."

"This group has felt like an island of close and pleasurable companionship, a place where we could talk about whatever we chose... we didn't refrain from talking about the "ugly face" of academic life: the competition, jealousy, heartbreak especially when one was prevented from advancing on the cruel ladder of academic ranks... there was a sense of the originality and pioneering nature of a group like this.

Pulling it all together

- The group has been a warm, welcoming and accepting place for its members... a space without competition, judgment, pressure of time or the need to achieve.
- It is a group of women, but it is also a 'women's group' in the sense that it does not adhere to the patriarchal culture of the academy.
- In some ways, the group is the "professional knowledge community" that was not available to us during the years that we worked full time in higher education
- The fact that the group is interdisciplinary may play a role in freeing its members from the restrictions of what counts for achievement and appropriate discourse in each field
- Writing a book together has played an important role in crystallizing the group and clarifying our collective desire to continue meeting and working together
- We can only wonder about the possibility of bringing the style, way of working together and values of a group like this one into the academy.

Becoming a Police Officer – Being a Police Officer. Structures and Contradictions of Police Work

Miriam Schäfer

Göttingen: Göttingen University Press 2021 (Göttingen Series in Sociological Biographical Research 6), <https://doi.org/10.17875/gup2021-1579>



In public discourses in Germany, the police as an institution is presented on the one hand as our “friend and helper” and the guarantor of law and order, and on the other hand as an organization with a monopoly of violence that illegally practices violence. Police officers are presented correspondingly as actors in the sphere of security and prevention of violence, and as victims or perpetrators of illegitimate violence. Beyond reflecting on these complementary images, this empirical sociological study looks at the everyday work of the police and reconstructs their complex field of action. Using a combination of theoretical approaches from biographical research, sociology of knowledge and figural sociology, this empirical investigation of the work of uniformed police officers in Lower Saxony, Germany, shows how their actions are processed in the contexts of specific organizational conditions and the biographical experiences of

the individuals concerned. With this approach the police officers' biographies become embedded in their familial and societal figurations and their activities are analyzed within the framework of the organizational figurations.

It is found that the structural features of police conduct and interpretations are located at the interface between organization and biography: organizational orientations for police action and their interactive implementation in concrete situations and in the daily routines of the organization are closely intertwined with the biographies of the police officers concerned. The study shows that concrete police practices are not only influenced by socialization within the organization, but are also linked to biographical experiences and the associated biographical stocks of knowledge. Furthermore, this study shows how we- and they-images of the police become interactively relevant in everyday police activities and interpretations. Connected to the powerful position of the police officers it is shown that police actions

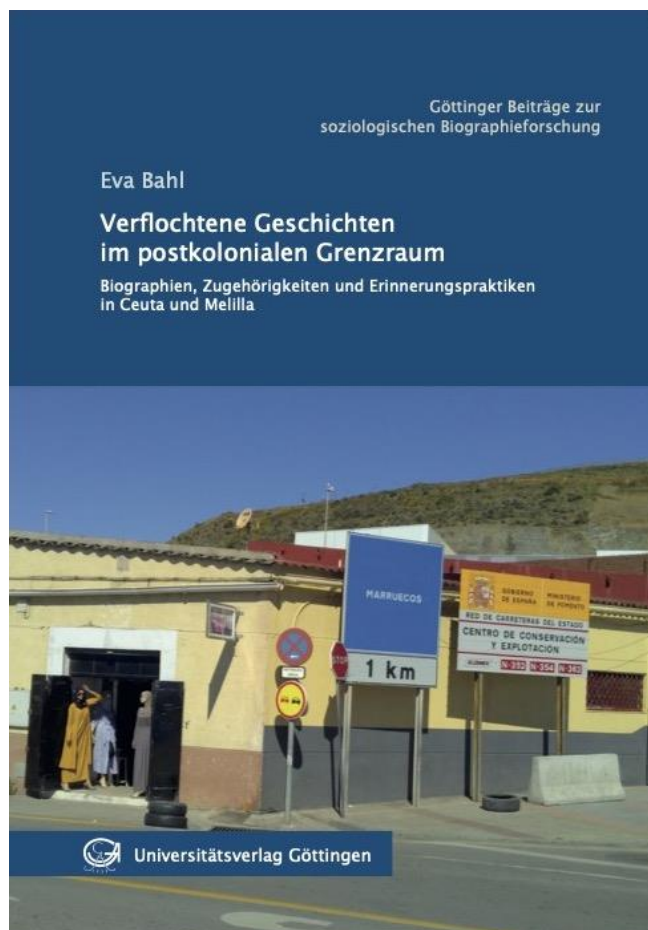
are aimed at maintaining this power imbalance. How this is processed is related to the biographical experiences and patterns of conduct of the police officers.

This study thus contributes to our understanding of careers in the police, police work and everyday practice. Beyond this it provides general insights into the interrelationship between organizations and biographies of individuals.

Entangled Histories in a Postcolonial Border Region: Biographies, Belongings and Memory Practices in Ceuta and Melilla

Eva Bahl

Göttingen: Göttingen University Press 2021 (Göttingen Series in Sociological Biographical Research 6), <https://doi.org/10.17875/gup2021-1600>



Geographically Ceuta and Melilla are on the African continent, but they are part of the national territory of Spain and thus of the European Union. Both cities came under European domination in the context of the so-called Reconquista in the 15th century. At the end of the 19th century, they became centres of the Spanish colonial project in Morocco, and played an important role in the seizing of power by fascists who supported the later dictator Francisco Franco. Today, they are frequently in the news due to the fact that they are surrounded by EU external borders, and significant social transformation processes are taking place among the local population. These two cities and the border spaces around them are focal points where manifold processes of today's globalized world can be observed: post-colonial dynamics, North-South inequalities, migration. This book is a sociological study of figurations be-

tween groupings that have resided for a long time in this border zone between Spain and Morocco, and reconstructs transformation processes in a post-colonial border space. These processes are accompanied by slowly changing power balances in which belongings and views of history are constantly being renegotiated.

The author studies different actors in the border space from the perspective of figural sociology, the sociology of memory and biographical research. Four detailed case analyses serve to illustrate the complexity of local social realities. These are embedded in historical and present-day social constellations in this border space between Spain and Morocco, and it is made clear that constructions of belonging and power relations in Ceuta and Melilla can only be understood in the context of colonial and post-colonial processes and events.

One result of the empirically based analysis is a typology of border interpretations or uses. It takes the different constructions of belonging and history, and places them in

relation to the historical and everyday understanding of the border of the different groups and groupings.

1. The border as a frontier: old-established Christian Spaniards who preserve memories of local history
2. The border as workplace and as a place to be defended: members of the para-military Guardia Civil police force
3. The border runs through biographies: Spaniards with a Moroccan family history
4. The border as everyday routine: young Moroccans in the border space between Spain and Morocco

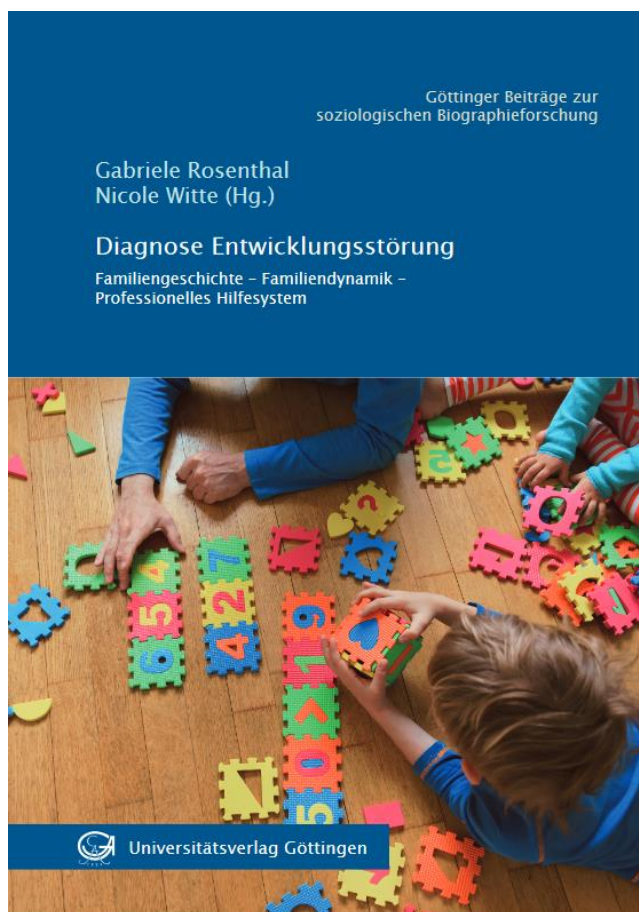
Other important conclusions are that memory practices depend on social power relations (and their transformation) in Ceuta and Melilla, and that belongings are frequently constructed in terms of historical self-positionings.

The analyses are based on a multi-method approach, including participant observation during five periods of fieldwork covering a total of seven months between 2014 and 2018, biographical narrative interviews and case reconstructions, ethnographic interviews, and group discussions.

Diagnosed Development Disorder: Family History – Family Dynamics – Professional Help Systems

Gabriele Rosenthal, Nicole Witte (eds.)

Göttingen: Göttingen University Press 2021 (Göttingen Series in Sociological Biographical Research 7)



This empirical study reconstructs relations between the parents of children diagnosed as having special needs and professional members of the healthcare and help systems in Germany. The main focus is on interactions between the different groups of actors along the questions of how important these systems are for stimulating the children's development, and what role is played by the family history of the parents and the present situation of the families. Case examples are presented in this volume of five families with different family histories and different ethnic and religious belongings, and above all with different experiences of professional help.

Die vorliegende empirische Untersuchung rekonstruiert Beziehungen zwischen Eltern von Kindern mit diagnostiziertem Förderbedarf und Fachkräften des Gesundheits- und Hilfesystems in Deutschland. Die Perspektive richtet

sich insbesondere auf die Interaktionen der verschiedenen Akteursgruppen entlang der Fragen, welche Bedeutung diese für die Entwicklungsförderung der Kinder haben und welche Rollen die jeweilige Familiengeschichte der Eltern sowie die gegenwärtige Lebenssituation der Familien dabei spielen. Die in diesem Band vorgestellten Fallbeispiele repräsentieren fünf Familien mit unterschiedlichen familiengeschichtlichen Hintergründen sowie unterschiedlichen ethnischen und religiösen Zugehörigkeiten, vor allem aber mit verschiedenen Erfahrungen mit Fachkräften.

Refugees, Migration and the Tightening Borders in the Middle East. A Perspective From Biographical Research on the Re-Figuration of Spaces and Cross-Cultural Comparison

Johannes Becker

Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung / Forum: Qualitative Social Research, 22(2), Art. 8, 2021. <http://dx.doi.org/10.17169/fqs-22.2.3598>

With its diachronic focus on socio-historical processes and life and family histories, sociological biographical research can analyse the emergence of new spatial figurations. It does so from the perspective of the experiences of individuals in their changing belonging to different groupings at different times. In this article, I investigate changing (meanings of) spaces in the Bilad ash-Sham region (roughly today's Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, and parts of Jordan and Syria). I discuss how the process of the formation of nation-state borders and citizenship in the twentieth century transformed translocal relations into transnational networks, combined spatial diffusion with (forced) emplacement in nation-states, and initiated accelerating national closure processes. At the family level, the growing relevance of citizenship and borders in the region came about with knowledge of, and family dialogue about, border crossing, and the increasing spatial diffusion of the family, as well as intrafamilial discussions on the "value" of different nation-states. These processes affected all families in the Bilad ash-Sham region to a varying extent. They constitute a type of figuration of space that influenced the gradual formation of societies within the framework of nation-states defined by colonial rulers. As an example, I will discuss the regional family history of a Syrian refugee in Amman, Jordan.

Key words: figural sociology; biographical research; sociology of space; re-figuration of spaces; cross-cultural comparison; family memory; migration; translocality; Syria; Jordan

RC 38 Board 2018-2022

President:

Hermílio Santos
Center of Economic and Social
Analysis (CAES-PUCRS)
Av. Ipiranga 6681- Prédio 8
90.619-600 Porto Alegre, Brazil
Phone: ++55 51 3320-3500 (6021)
hermilio@pucrs.br

Vice-Presidents:

Tazuko Kobayashi
Hitotsubashi University
Graduate School of Social
Sciences
2-1 Naka, Kunitachi
Tokyo 186-8681 Japan
Phone: ++81-42-580-8872
t.kobayashi@r.hit-u.ac.jp

Maria Pohn-Lauggas
University of Göttingen
Center of Methods in Social Sci-
ences
Goßlerstraße 19
37073 Göttingen, Germany
maria.pohn-lauggas@uni-goettingen.de

Secretary/Treasurer:

Johannes Becker
University of Göttingen
Center of Methods in Social Sci-
ences
Goßlerstraße 19
37073 Göttingen, Germany
johannes.becker@sowi.uni-goettingen.de

Board Members:

Ursula Apitzsch
J.W. Goethe University
FB Gesellschaftswissenschaften
Robert Mayer-Str. 5
60054 Frankfurt M., Frankfurt
apitzsch@soz.uni-frankfurt.de

Susan E. Bell
Drexel University
Department of Sociology
Arch Street, 294
Philadelphia, USA
Phone: ++1 215 571 3266
susan.bell@drexel.edu

Daniel Bertaux
Université de Strasbourg
5 Allée du Général Rouvillois –
67083 Strasbourg
Phone: +33 3 68 85 61 36
daniel.bertaux@misha.fr

Roswitha Breckner
University of Vienna,
Faculty of Social Sciences
Rooseveltplatz 2, A-1090 Vienna,
Austria
Phone: ++43 1 4277 48217
roswitha.breckner@univie.ac.at

Kathy Davis
VU University
Faculty of Social Sciences
Buitenveldertselaan 3
1082 VA Amsterdam,
Netherlands
Phone: +31 20598 6748
K.E.Davis@uv.nl

Catherine Delcroix
Université de Strasbourg
Faculté des sciences sociales
5 Allée du Général Rouvillois
67000 Strasbourg, France
Phone: ++33 3 68 85 61 25
cadelcroix@wanadoo.fr

Lena Inowlocki
Frankfurt University of Applied Sci-
ences
Department Health and Social
Work
Nibelungenplatz 1
60318 Frankfurt M, Germany
Phone: ++49 69 556 740
inowlocki@soz.uni-frankfurt.de

Kaja Kazmierska
University of Lodz
Institute of Sociology
ul. Rewolucji 1905 r.41/43
90-214 Lodz, Poland
Phone: +48 42 56 26 05
kajakaz@uni.lodz.pl

Michaela Köttig
Frankfurt University of Applied Sci-
ences
Department Health and Social
Work
Nibelungenplatz 1
60318 Frankfurt a.M., Germany
Phone: ++49 69 1533 2647
michaela.koettig@gmx.de

Gabriele Rosenthal
University of Göttingen
Center of Methods in Social Sci-
ences
Goßlerstraße 19
37073 Göttingen, Germany
Phone: ++49 551 39 12413
g.rosenthal@gmx.de

Henning Salling Olesen
University of Roskilde
Graduate School of Life Long
Learning
P.O.Box 260
4000 Roskilde, Denmark
Phone: ++45-46742672
hso@ruc.dk

Victoria Semenova
Russian Academy of Sciences
Institute of Sociology
Moscow, 117256
victoria-sem@yandex.ru

Irini Siouti
Institut für Bildungswissenschaft
Sensengasse 3a
A-1090 Vienna, Austria
Phone: ++ 43 1 4277 467 90
irini.siouti@univie.ac.at

Giorgios Tsiolis
University of Crete
Department of Sociology
Gailos Campus
741 00 Rethymno, Greece
Phone: ++30 2831077497
tsiolisg@uoc.gr

Julia Vajda
ELTE University
Faculty of Social Sciences
1117 Budapest, Pázmány
Péter sétány 1/a, Hungary
Phone: ++36 1 336 14 52
h13073vaj@ella.hu