**BIOGRAPHY AND SOCIETY** 

RESEARCH COMMITTEE 38 OF THE ISA

Newsletter / June 2014

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT JUNE 2014

Dear Colleagues,

We are approaching the **18**<sup>th</sup> **World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama** very fast. The programme of RC 38 is accessible at <a href="https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2014/webprogram/Symposium202.html">https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2014/webprogram/Symposium202.html</a>. In case you cannot find it on the web, it is also printed in this newsletter. We are very much looking forward to three dense and promising days, with altogether fifteen sessions, including an Integrative Session as well as three Joint Sessions which were organized in cooperation with other RCs, starting from Wednesday morning and lasting until Saturday early afternoon.

This time the **Business Meeting** which takes place on Wednesday, July 16 from 7:30 PM to 8:50 PM, will also be very relevant. The presidency has to be voted anew, together with Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, and the Board. Michaela Koettig has to resign from the presidency due to other obligations after twelve years of being part of it as secretary and vice-president. We have to thank her for her strong commitment with the RC which always was highly enriching with her organized sessions at the conferences, her inspiring papers and very successful networking among senior as well as junior colleagues. Not least her responsibility for the newsletter was a guarantee for continuity, regular exchange and discussion among all members. Thanks for all this, Michaela, and we are very happy that you intend to remain on the Board of the RC! Also Irini Siouti has to terminate her participation as Secretary due to a new appointment with the University of Vienna and still lasting obligations in an EU-project in Frankfurt. Congratulations Irini for your new job, wishing you lots of success, and we are also glad that you are ready to remain on the Board!

I, Roswitha Breckner (University of Vienna), would be ready to candidate as president for another four years. Lena Inowlocki (University Frankfurt am Main/Germany) and Hermilio Santos (PUCRS Puerto Alegre/Brazil) are ready to candidate as vice-presidents, taking co-responsibilities in coordinating the RC-programme at Forum- and World-Congresses as well as for the newsletter. Maria Pohn-Weidinger (University of Vienna) agreed to candidate as Secretary. We also have to vote for the Board.

If you consider yourself or would like to suggest someone else to candidate for president, vice-president, secretary or board, please do not hesitate to do so and to get in touch until June 30! Finally, we have to confirm our revised statutes which have been adapted to the overall ISA statutes in order to create more coherence among the RCs by voting on them.

We would be very happy if all members who are attending the World Congress are also participating in this important Business Meeting.

Last not least I would like to draw your attention to an **rc 38-blog** we have installed in order to create a communication platform which can be used for posting information as well as comments for discussion also in between the newsletters. Please visit <a href="http://www.biographyandsociety.com/">http://www.biographyandsociety.com/</a>

Looking forward to meeting many of you in Yokohama, and with best wishes for a productive and also relaxing summer time for all of you!

Roswitha Breckner (<u>www.soz.univie.ac.at/roswitha-breckner/</u>
President of the RC Biography & Society

### Some further important topics:

We ask all of you to inform us about a change in your address, and in particular in your e-mail address.

### # Membership fees

Please remember to pay your membership fee:

Regular members US\$ 40

Students and members from countries B and C

(see ISA regulations) US\$ 20

**Bank account:** Michaela Koettig

Sparda-Bank-Hessen, Germany

IBAN: DE 13 500 905 000 101 548 312

BIC: GEN ODE F1 S12

### # The deadline for the next newsletter is the End of October 2014

You can send us

- a short paper (3-7 pages) on a topic you are currently working on
- a presentation of your current project
- some reflection 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 call for papers for conferences, workshops, summer schools
- new publications from you, also in your respective native language
- any other thought or information you like to share.

New Blog for recent news of RC 38 activities: Please visit at

http://www.biographyandsociety.com/

### **CONTENTS**

# XVIII ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY IN YOKOHAMA Program

### CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The social construction of border zones: A comparison of two geopolitical cases

**NEWS** 

**NEW PUBLICATION** 



### **CONGRESS INFORMATION**

All further information you will find at: <a href="http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/">http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/</a>

The program of RC 38 at: <a href="http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/rc/rc.php?n=RC38">http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/rc/rc.php?n=RC38</a>

### **RC 38 PROGRAM**

Ab- stract no	Name/Country	E-mail	Торіс		
	INTEGRATIVE SESSION (RC 31, 32, 38, German Sociological Association, ESA RN 33): Crisis, Transnational Migration, and the Gender Order in Europe				

Time and Place: Tuesday, July 15, 2014: 12:30 PM-1:50 PM

Session Organizers: RC 31, Sociology of Migration: Marco MARTINIELLO (M.Martiniello@ulg.ac.be); RC 32, Women in Society: Evangelia TASTSOGLOU (evie.tastsoglou@gmail.com); RC 38, Biography and Society: Roswitha BRECKNER (roswitha.breckner@univie.ac.at); German Sociological Association: Martina LOW (martina.loew@kwi-nrw.de); ESA RN 33, Research Network on Women and Gender Studies: Maria Carmela AGODI (agodi@unina.it) and Michael MEUSER (michael.meuser@tu-dortmund.de)

41630	Ursula APITZ- SCH/Germany	apitzsch@soz.uni- frankfurt.de	Reversal of the Gender Order? Male Marriage Migration to Germany By North - African and Turkish Men: New Forms of Gendered Trans- nationalization of Migrant Generations in Eu- rope
42571	Catherine DEL- CROIX/France	cadel- croix@wanadoo.fr	Creative Parenting in Transnational Families and the Gender Diagonal
43919	Franca BIMBI/Italy	Franca.bimbi@unipd.it	Migrant Women and Their Families in Italian Urban Contexts: Substantive Citizenship, Gender Regimes, Meanings of Social Spaces
46937	Mirjana MOROK- VASIC- MÜLLER/France	mirja- na.morokvasic@u- paris10.fr	Transnational Mobilities in Europe: 'Living Apart Together' and Gendered Outcomes

JOINT Session (RC 05 and RC 38, hosted by RC 05): Intersectionality and Intellectual Biographies

Time and Place: Wednesday, July 16, 2014: 10:30 AM - 12:20 PM, Yokohama, 302

Session Organizers: Kathy DAVIS (k.e.davis@vu.nl) and Helma LUTZ (lutz@soz.uni-frankfurt.de)

**Chair: Janice IRVINE** 

38984	Roswitha BRECK- NER/Austria	ro- switha.breckner@univ	Between Language and Music – An Intellectual Biography
47549	Jeff HEARN / UK	ie ac. at jeff.hearn@oru.se	Autoethnography, Theorizing and Transnational Movements and Moments
65583	Nira YUVAL-DAVIS / UK	n.yuval- davis@uel.ac.uk	Narratives of Women Against Fundamental- ism Activists – Some Methodological and Po- litical Ponderings
66556	Nacira GUÉNIF- SOUILAMAS / France	ngs39@hotmail.fr	Reflecting/Reflexive Surface: An Ethno- Gender Othering Experience

Session 3871: Understanding Social Problems through Narratives by Insiders, Part I

Time and Place: Wednesday, July 16, 2014: 03:30 PM - 05:20 PM, Yokohama, Booth 60

Session Organizers: Tazuko KOBAYASHI (<u>t.kobayashi@r.hit-u.ac.jp</u>) and Mamoru TSUKADA

(mamoru@sugiyama-u.ac.jp)

Chair: Tazuko KOBAYASHI, Co-Chair: Mamoru TSUKADA

35029	Christal Oghogho SPEL / Finland	christal.mudi- okorodudu@helsinki.fi	Scums of the EARTH: A Critical Analysis of 'Humanness' in Host Society from10 Life Stories of Poor Immigrants in Johannesburg, South Africa
50754	Baukje PRINS / Netherlands	b.prins@hhs.nl	You Are a Dark Person After All
51692	Karijn NIJHOFF / Netherlands	k.g.nijhoff@hhs.nl	Polish in the Hague: The Stories of Long Term Migrants
52667	Miyuki HASHI- MOTO /Japan	mieux@bf6.so- net.ne.jp	The Non-Nationalized Narrative of Two Korean School Graduates
45582	Yayoi YUKAWA / Japan	marche326@hotmail.c om	How Do Students View Their Mentor-Student Relationship?: A Cross-Case Analysis of Narra- tives of Academic Harassment in Japanese Graduate Education
51605	Kohki ITOH / Japan	khk_110@yahoo.co.jp	Experiences of Difficulties Faced by Hikiko- mori People Within Everyday-Life: From the Perspective of View of Intimacy

Session 3870:Understanding Social Problems through Narratives by Insiders, Part II

Time and Place: Wednesday, July 16, 2014: 05:30 PM - 07:20 PM, Yokohama, Booth 60

Session Organizers: Tazuko KOBAYASHI (t.kobayashi@r.hit-u.ac.jp) and Mamoru TSUKADA

(mamoru@sugiyama-u.ac.jp)

**Chair: Mamoru TSUKADA** 

36512	Nadine JUKSCHAT / Germany	nad- ine.jukschat@kfn.de	Addictive Gaming: Self-Analyses of Addiction and the Biographical Context. Life Story Interviews with Video Game Addicts
38961	Aleksandra BAR- TOSZKO / Norway	aleksan- dra.bartoszko@hioa.n o	Yet Another Junkie Story? Lived Experiences of Drug Policy in Norway and Why They Matter
40805	Lena INOWLOCKI / Germany	inowlocki@soz.uni- frankfurt.de	Towards Adequate and Accessible Psychosocial Care: A Research Working Alliance with Professionals in Treatment and Counseling
42748	Hidemitsu AOKI / Japan	so000062@ed.ritsume i.ac.jp	Social Problems of Parents Who Have Children with Schizophrenia in Japan
44813	Tomiaki YAMADA / Japan	to- mi.yamada@nifty.com	An Attempt to Analyze the Narrative World of the Life-Stories of Doctors and Patients In- volved in the HIV Tainted Blood Product Inci- dent in Japan
49728	Pinar OKTEM / Tur- key	pinarok- tem@gmail.com	Reconstructions of HIV and Its Stigma through Biographical Narratives of People Living with HIV in Turkey
45699	Masaya NEMOTO / Japan	asan- teni@hotmail.com	Living with Uncertainty, Struggling with Possibility: A Study on Radiation Effects from the Perspective of Atomic Bomb Survivors
49778	Hermilio SANTOS and Priscila SUSIN / Brazil	hermilio@pucrs.br pri.qsusin@gmail.com	Narratives on Violence and the Everyday Life of Children and Families Living in Favelas of Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

**Session 4148: Business Meeting** 

Time and Place: Wednesday, July 16, 2014: 07:30 PM - 08:50 PM, Yokohama, Booth 60

Session Organizers: Roswitha Breckner, Michaela Koettig, Irini Siouti

Session 3863: Concepts of Inclusion from a Biographical Perspective, Part I

Time and Place: Thursday, July 17, 2014: 08:30 AM - 10:20 AM, Yokohama, Booth 60

### **Chair: Lena INOWLOCKI**

32381	Rudolf LEIPRECHT / Germany	rudolf.leiprecht@uni- oldenburg.de	Inclusion and Exclusion Intertwined
39582	Laura ODASSO / France	laura.odasso@misha.f	Intermarriages and Inclusion. Time and Space of Love, Laws and Norms
34866	Halleh GHORASHI and Melanie EI- JBERTS / Nether- lands	h.ghorashi@vu.nl m.eijberts@vu.nl	Biographies and the Doubleness of Inclusion and Exclusion
40602	Karen LOWTON and Chris HILEY/ UK	ka- ren.lowton@kcl.ac.uk; chris.hiley@kcl.ac.uk	Dimensions of Exclusion in the Lived Experiences of Adult Survivors of Childhood Liver Transplant: A Micro-Analytic Perspective

	1				
47860	Christine RIEGEL and Lalitha CHA- MAKALAYIL / Ger- many	christine.riegel@ph- freiburg.de lalitha.chamakalayil@ ph-freiburg.de	Life Strategies of Families in Marginalised Urban Neighbourhoods: Dealing with Social and Educational Inequalities		
52407	Sirpa KORHONEN / Finland	sir- pa.i.korhonen@jyu.fi	Refugee Returns – Experiences of Inclusion Here and There		
Session	3859: Concepts of Inc	lusion from a Biographic	al Perspective II		
Time ar	<b>nd Place:</b> Thursday, Jul	y 17, 2014: 10:30 AM - 12	:20 PM, Yokohama, Booth 60		
Session (k.e.day	Organizer: Lena vis@vu.nl)	INOWLOCKI (inowlock	ki@soz.uni-frankfurt.de) and Kathy DAVIS		
Chair: F	lalleh GHORASHI				
53405	Victoria SE- MENOVA / Russia	victoria- sem@yandex.ru	Construction of Solidarity Through Language Mode: Sociocultural Approach to Internet Discussion Forum		
52349	Christoph SCHWARZ / Ger- many	schwarz@e.mail.de	Educational Policies and Questions of "Inclusion" in the Middle East: The Case of the Palestinian Refugees		
41181	Jesus Humberto PINEDA OLIVIERI / Germany	je- sus.pineda@ocides.or g	From Being Excluded to Becoming a Tri- umpher: Higher Education Massification Poli- cies in Venezuela and Their Biographical Meaning		
38059	Michaela KOETTIG / Germany	michaela.koettig@gm x.de	Does Inclusion Mean Everyone Every Time?! – Critical Reflection on a Popular Concept		
44814	Thomas GEIER and Magnus FRANK / Germany	tho- mas.geier@zsb.uni- halle.de; magnus.frank@uni- due.de	Inclusion in Society through Religious Orientation? Biographies of Male Students Participating in the 'Gülen Movement' in Germany		
68330	Jacek KUBERA / Po- land	j.kubera@amu.edu.pl	Renaissance of Ethnicity? Self-Identifications of the Second and Third Generation of Algerian Immigrants in France		
67958	Veronika LEICHT / Germany	Ve- ronika.leicht@fau.de	Inclusion and Structural Processes of Young Recipients of "Unemployment II Benefits"		
		the Global South and C Hegemonic Discourses	ollective Histories. Individual Remembering in		
Time ar	nd Place: Thursday, Jul	y 17, 2014: 03:30 PM - 05	:20 PM, Yokohama, Booth 60		
	Session Organizers: Hee-Young YI (biograf@hanmail.net) and Gabriele ROSENTHAL (g.rosenthal@gmx.de)				
Chair: G	Gabriele ROSENTHAL				
33177	Raimundo FREI / Germany	raimun- do.frei@gmail.com	Social Memories in South America: Generational Narratives in Times of Political Youth		

Activism

41718	Johannes BECKER and Arne WORM / Germany	iohan- nes.becker@sowi.uni- goettingen.de, aworm@uni- goettingen.de	Biographical Narrations, Discourses and Collective History of Palestinians in Jerusalem's Old City and in a Palestinian Refugee Camp
63383	Marija GRUJIC / Germany	mari- ja.grujic@gmail.com	The Ambivalence of Memory and History – the Case of Kosovo and Serbia in the Biographies of the Kosovo Serbs
40650	Robert MILLER / UK	r.miller@qub.ac.uk	Using Biographical and Family History Methods in Sub-Saharan Africa: Inheritance in Kenya

### **Session 3861: Biography and Politics**

Time and Place: Thursday, July 17, 2014: 05:30 PM - 07:20 PM, Yokohama, Booth 60

Session Organizers: Rosa Maria BRANDHORST (<u>RosaMaria.Brandhorst@gmx.de</u>) and Michaela KOET-TIG (<u>Michaela.koettig@gmx.de</u>)

### **Chair: Rosa Maria BRANDHORST**

30369	Regina SOREMSKI and Ingrid MIETHE / Germany	in- grid.miethe@erziehun g.uni-giessen.de; re- gina.soremski@erzieh	Cultural Capital in Movement: On the Dissolution of Traditional Educational Codes by Educational Policy and Social Movements Among First Generation Academics in Germany
32679	Cornelia HIPPMANN / Ger- many	ung.uni-giessen.de comel- ia.hippmann@tu- dortmund.de	ESA the Position of the Female Gender in the Political Space. An Analytical Biography Access to the Study of East German Female Politicians Career Chances
47841	Hiromi TANAKA / Japan	hiromi@meiji.ac.jp	A Biographical Analysis of Women's Political Participation: The Importance of Politicization in Female Legislators' Biographies
63703	Felicia HERRSCHAFT / Germany	F.herrschaft@soz.uni- frankfurt.de	Politicization of the Youth in Germany – Two Case-Studies About Protest Movements
43031	Hanna HERZOG / Israel	hher- zog@post.tau.ac.il	Present Absentees: Internal Refugeeism as Location and Identity in the Second and Third Generations of Palestinian Women Citizens of Israel

Session 3868: Reconstructing Gendered Biographies in Transcultural Research Settings: Methodological Challenges

Time and Place: Friday, July 18, 2014: 08:30 AM - 10:20 AM, Yokohama, Booth 60

Session Organizers: Bettina DAUSIEN (<a href="mailto:bettina.dausien@univie.ac.at">bettina.dausien@univie.ac.at</a>), Irini SIOUTI (<a href="mailto:Siouti@soz.uni-frankfurt.de">Siouti@soz.uni-frankfurt.de</a>), Hiromi TANAKA (<a href="mailto:hiromi@meiji.ac.jp">hiromi TANAKA</a> (<a href="mailto:hiromi@meiji.ac.jp">hiromi@meiji.ac.jp</a> (<a href="mailto:hiromi@meiji.ac.jp">hiromi@meiji.ac.jp</a> (<a href="mailto:hiromi@meiji.ac.jp">hiromi@meiji.a

### Co-Chairs: Bettina DAUSIEN, Irini SIOUTI, Hiromi TANAKA

51343	Daniel BERTAUX /	dan-	Why Empirical Sociology Needs Life Stories
	France	iel.bertaux@misha.fr	

43720	Rosa BRANDHORST / Germany	rosa- maria.brandhorst@gm x.de	Multi-Sited Approaches in Analysing Gender Constructions in the Migration Process: Based on the Example of Migration Between Cuba and Germany
50179	Yukie HIRATA / Ja- pan	kirara0616@hotmail.c om	For a Happy Encounter Between a Researcher and a Participant Living in the Different Contexts of Social Organization of Gender
33246	Caterina ROHDE / Germany	cateri- na.rohde@arcor.de	Being a Housewife – Is It a Traditional or Progressive Female Gender Role? Understanding Gender Role Constructions in a Transcultural Russian-German Research Setting
47289	Noga GILAD / Israel	giladnoga@gmail.com	Biographic Self Positioning as Narrated Argumentation

JOINT Session 3869 (RC 38 and RC 32, hosted by RC 38): Representation and Restoration of Women's Experiences: Navigating between Colonial History and Postcolonial Present in the Asian Context

Time and Place: Friday, July 18, 2014: 10:30 AM - 12:20 PM, Yokohama, 501

Session Organizers: Hee-Young YI (<a href="mailto:biograf@hanmail.net">biograf@hanmail.net</a>) and Gabriele ROSENTHAL (<a href="mailto:g.rosenthal@gmx.de">g.rosenthal@gmx.de</a>) and Bandana PURKAYASTHA (<a href="mailto:bandanapurkayastha@yahoo.com">bandanapurkayastha@yahoo.com</a>)

Chair: Victoria SEMENOVA, Co-Chair: Donna KING

45500	Na-Young LEE and Jae Kyung LEE / South Korea	nylee@cau.ac.kr ljk@ewha.ac.kr	Can We Hear Subaltern Woman's Experiences? Im/Possibility of Representation in Postcolonial Context of South Korea
50378	Yoon Kyung CHOI and Young Ju CHO / South Korea	yunee20@gmail.com, wom- enjs75@ewha.ac.kr	How to Historicize the Invisible and Inaudible Women's Experiences? Thesaurus Construction of Women's Oral History and Gender Politics
65717	Naoko KINOSHITA / Japan	nao- conaoco55@yahoo.co. jp	Re-Articulation on Japanese 'Comfort Women' Survivors' Experiences
31649	Aya EZAWA / Netherlands	ayaezawa@gmail.com	Dutch-Japanese Encounters: Gendered Experiences of the Japanese Occupation of the Netherlands East Indies

### Session 3862: Biography, Violence, Gender

**Time and Place:** Friday, July 18, 2014: 03:30 PM - 05:20 PM, Yokohama, Booth 60

Session Organizers: Michaela KOETTIG (<u>Michaela.koettig@gmx.de</u>) and Hermílio SANTOS (<u>hermilio@pucrs.br</u>)

**Chair: Michaela KOETTIG** 

67650	Fabien TRUONG / France	fabien.truong@univ- paris8.fr	Inside the French Hoods. Revisiting Juvenile Delinquency in Urban Relegated Districts
33348	Frank BEIER / Ger- many	frank.beier@phil.tu- chemnitz.de	Violence and Dissidence. Political Imprisoned Women in the Former GDR
47896	Maria POHN- WEIDINGER / Aus- tria	maria.pohn- weid- inger@univie.ac.at	'Seduction': A Pattern of Interpretation

	Hermilio SANTOS and Odil Matheus FONTELLA / Brazil	hermilio@pucrs.br; mfontella@bol.com.br	Between Subordination and Protagonism: Violence Experience of Young Women Through Biographic Narratives
JOINT S	-	l nd RC 31, hosted by RC 3	38): Crossing Experiences: From Biographies of
	ts in and from Northea	•	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Time ar	nd Place: Friday, July 18	8, 2014: 05:30 PM - 07:20	PM, Yokohama, 301
Session	Organizers: Sara PARI	K (bach_ps@hotmail.com	) and Lilach LEV-ARI ( <u>llevari@oranim.ac.il</u> )
Chair: S	arah PARK		
40288	Johanna ZULUETA/ Japan	hannazu@gmail.com	Memory, Nostalgia and the Creation of "Home": An Okinawan Woman's Journey
45662	TAKESHY TANIGUTI and Matheus GATO DE JESUS / Brazil	gustavotani- guti@gmail.com; matheusgatodeje- sus@gmail.com	Sociology of an Immigrant Between Border- lines: An Intellectual Biography of Hiroshi Sai- to
47045	Hiromitsu INOKU- CHI / Japan	hi2@buffalo.edu	Reading "Battle Hymn of Tiger Mom" as an Educational Biography
52408	Daisuke YASUI / Ja- pan	hs0130yd@yahoo.co.j	Ethnic Food Business as Cultural Practice
Session	3866: Different Persp	ectives on Life Stories	
			:20 AM, Yokohama, Booth 60
Time ar	nd Place: Saturday, July Organizers Tazuko K	/ 19, 2014: 08:30 AM - 10	:20 AM, Yokohama, Booth 60 <u>Pr.hit-u.ac.jp</u> ) <b>and Irini SIOUTI</b> ( <u>Siouti@soz.uni-</u>
Time ar Session frankfur	nd Place: Saturday, July Organizers Tazuko K	, 19, 2014: 08:30 AM - 10 OBAYASHI ( <u>t.kobayashi@</u>	
Time ar Session frankfur	ond Place: Saturday, July Organizers Tazuko K rt.de)	, 19, 2014: 08:30 AM - 10 OBAYASHI ( <u>t.kobayashi@</u>	
Time ar Session <u>frankfur</u> Co-Chai	Organizers Tazuko Kort.de) irs: Tazuko KOBAYASH Bettina DAUSIEN /	OBAYASHI (t.kobayashi@ I and Irini SIOUTI bet- tina.dausien@univie.a	Pr.hit-u.ac.jp) and Irini SIOUTI (Siouti@soz.uni-
Time ar Session frankfur Co-Chai	Organizers Tazuko Kot.de)  rs: Tazuko KOBAYASH  Bettina DAUSIEN / Austria  Catherine DEL-	OBAYASHI (t.kobayashi@ Il and Irini SIOUTI bet- tina.dausien@univie.a c.at cadel-	Text and Contexts: A Pragmatic Approach to the Interpretation of Biographical Interviews  Analyzing Recurring Themes in a Life Story
Time ar Session frankfur Co-Chai 65644	Organizers Tazuko Kot.de) irs: Tazuko KOBAYASH Bettina DAUSIEN / Austria  Catherine DEL- CROIX / France Yosepha TABIB-	OBAYASHI (t.kobayashi@ Il and Irini SIOUTI bet- tina.dausien@univie.a c.at cadel- croix@wanadoo.fr yose- pha.tabib@mail.huji.a	Text and Contexts: A Pragmatic Approach to the Interpretation of Biographical Interviews  Analyzing Recurring Themes in a Life Story with Social Context in Mind
Time ar Session frankfur Co-Chai 65644 66120 33448	Organizers Tazuko Kot.de)  irs: Tazuko KOBAYASH  Bettina DAUSIEN / Austria  Catherine DEL- CROIX / France  Yosepha TABIB- CALIF / Israel  Sirpa KORHONEN / Finland	OBAYASHI (t.kobayashi@ Il and Irini SIOUTI bet- tina.dausien@univie.a c.at cadel- croix@wanadoo.fr yose- pha.tabib@mail.huji.a c.il	Text and Contexts: A Pragmatic Approach to the Interpretation of Biographical Interviews  Analyzing Recurring Themes in a Life Story with Social Context in Mind  Ethnographic Biography
Time ar Session frankfur Co-Chai 65644 66120 33448 52199	Organizers Tazuko Kot.de)  irs: Tazuko KOBAYASH  Bettina DAUSIEN / Austria  Catherine DEL- CROIX / France  Yosepha TABIB- CALIF / Israel  Sirpa KORHONEN / Finland  3867: Embodied Biog	OBAYASHI (t.kobayashi@ Il and Irini SIOUTI bet- tina.dausien@univie.a c.at cadel- croix@wanadoo.fr yose- pha.tabib@mail.huji.a c.il sir- pa.i.korhonen@jyu.fi raphies and Sexy Stories	Text and Contexts: A Pragmatic Approach to the Interpretation of Biographical Interviews  Analyzing Recurring Themes in a Life Story with Social Context in Mind  Ethnographic Biography
Time ar Session frankfur Co-Chai 65644 66120 33448 52199 Session Time ar	Organizers Tazuko Kot.de)  irs: Tazuko KOBAYASH  Bettina DAUSIEN / Austria  Catherine DEL- CROIX / France  Yosepha TABIB- CALIF / Israel  Sirpa KORHONEN / Finland  3867: Embodied Biog	OBAYASHI (t.kobayashi@ Il and Irini SIOUTI bet- tina.dausien@univie.a c.at cadel- croix@wanadoo.fr yose- pha.tabib@mail.huji.a c.il sir- pa.i.korhonen@jyu.fi raphies and Sexy Stories (19, 2014: 10:30 AM - 12	Text and Contexts: A Pragmatic Approach to the Interpretation of Biographical Interviews  Analyzing Recurring Themes in a Life Story with Social Context in Mind  Ethnographic Biography  Returning Refugees' Life Stories

Intimacy in the Research Process – Methodo-

logical and Ethical Implications of Examining the Psychosocial Dynamics of Sexual Risk Be-

havior in Biographical Peer Research

The Sex Lives of Sex Researchers

langer@soz.uni-

irvine@soc.umass.edu

frankfurt.de

47749

33090

Phil LANGER /

Janice IRVINE / US

Germany

	41333	Gabriele ROSEN- THAL and Hendrik HINRICHSEN / Germany	g.rosenthal@gmx.de; Hinrichsen.Hendrik@t- online.de	Talking About Sexuality in Order to Deal with Discrimination? Gay Men in Palestine	
--	-------	----------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

### Session 3864: Constructing Biographies in Different Media

Time and Place: Saturday, July 19, 2014: 12:30 PM - 02:20 PM, Yokohama, Booth 60

Session Organizers: Roswitha BRECKNER (<a href="mailto:roswitha.breckner@univie.ac.at">roswitha.breckner@univie.ac.at</a>), Gülsüm DEPELI (<a href="mailto:gdepeli@gmail.com">gdepeli@gmail.com</a>) and Maria POHN-WEIDINGER (<a href="mailto:maria.pohn-weidinger@univie.ac.at">maria.pohn-weidinger@univie.ac.at</a>)

### **Chair: Maria POHN-WEIDINGER**

39013	Gülsüm DEPELI / Turkey	gdepeli@gmail.com	Autobiographical Narration in Turkish Women Weblogs
46994	Min-Yue HSIAO / Japan	miesiao@gmail.com	"My Girlfriend Said She Won't Live with My Mom in the Future": Online Discussion About Relationship in Taiwan
36261	Arlene STEIN / Canada	arle- nes@rci.rutgers.edu	Performing Transgender Authenticity Through Video Diaries
35992	Kathy DAVIS / Netherlands	k.e.davis@vu.nl	Passion, Experience, and Biography: What Can Tango Dancers Tell Us?
40647	Robert MILLER / UK	r.miller@qub.ac.uk	Researching Virtual Realities – Methodological and Conceptual Issues
36220	Dorett FUNCKE / Germany	Funcke@gmx.net	From Field to Theory and Back – The Biographical (re-) Construction of an Unconventional Family Through a Multi-Variant Range of Data
38992	Roswitha BRECK- NER / Austria	ro- switha.breckner@univ	Family Photo Albums on the Web

ie.ac.at

### **CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CULTURAL PATTERNS AND LIFE STORIES**

## AILI AARELAID-TART MEMORIAL CONFERENCE 27.08.2014 at Tallinn University (Estonia)

### Program:

Marek Tamm	"Introduction"
Zenonas Norkus	"Was There Increasing Civic Culture South-North Gradient in the Baltic States, 1918-1940?"
Vieda Skultans	"How Baltic cultures shape life histories and how they shape these cultures"
Anu Mai Kõll	"The one who has arrived has a long way to go"
Baiba Bela	"Biography and transnationalism"
Lunch	
Maija Runcis	"Cultural patterns among Latvian and Estonian diaspora in Sweden"
Li Bennich-Björkman	"Mending Life: Narrating Life Trajectories among Estonians and Bosnians in Exile"
Elena Zdravomyslova	""Sandwich generation syndrome" as a pattern of family care"
Laura Assmuth	"Mobility patterns between Estonia and Finland: what about children?"
Coffee break	
Elżbieta Hałas	"The Myth of Cultural Integration in International Relations"
Ene Kõresaar	"Life Stories and Cultural Memory: Re-considering the relationship "
Aigi Rahi-Tamm	"Our untold stories"
JP Roos	" Recovered memories in practice: the case of Thomas Quick"
Reception	•

This is the preliminary program and there may be changes, Anna Temkina and Ellu Saar are deciding of their participation possibilities.

Further information: Maggie O'Neill (ESA, RN03): maggie.o' neill@durham.ac.uk





### Mid-term Conference 2014 **RN03 BIOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVES ON EUROPEAN SOCIETIES** 50 Year Anniversary of Sociology at Durham 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> September 2014, *Durham University* Creative Applications of Biographical Research: Theory, Practice and Policy

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

Biographical Research and practices as part of human understanding helps people to make sense of what has been and what is happening in their lives, cultures, communities and societies. Rooted in a long history and genealogy, biographical/narrative approaches have developed from a focus upon a single story, a 'life story', to encompass autobiographical secondary and archival research and analysis - as well as multi-media and arts based multi-sensory methods.

The mid-term conference 2014 will examine the Theoretical and Methodological underpinnings of Biographical Sociology and the Creative Applications of Biographical Research.

Questions such as what constitutes Biographical Research? What theoretical antecedents influence our work? How do we conduct Biographical Research? How might we apply Biographical Research? What Creative Applications are currently being practiced by Biographical Researchers? How are a new generation of Biographical researchers using biographical methods in their M.A and PhD research?

It is almost three decades since Ken Plummer's Documents of Life and his statement that "a major theme haunts this book. It is a longing for social science to take more seriously its humanistic foundations and to foster styles of thinking that encourage the creative, interpretive story telling of lives..."(The Documents of Life 2, p.1).

The interim conference aims to do just that - to theorise, apply and encourage the theoretical, creative, interpretive story telling of lives.

Abstracts of up to 300 words are welcome on the following themes:

Creative applications of biographical methods; Theorizing biographical research; Archiving biographical Research; Ethnography and Auto-ethnography; Workshops on doing biographical/narrative research and analyzing data; Open Stream

Papers are welcome on a range of topics including: feminisms, gender, sexualities, crime, violence, politics, the body, sport, health and well-being, youth and communities.

Five-Day Training Intensive October/November 2014

Biographic-Narrative-Interpretive Method (BNIM)

Narrative Interview and Interpretation (UK academic staff only, not doctoral students)

October 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> (Thursday-Friday) and October 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> (Monday-Wednesday)

November 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday-Friday) and October 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> (Monday-Wednesday), 24a Princes

Avenue, London N10 3LR, Muswell Hill, North London, United Kingdom

The value of open-narrative interviewing and insightful interpretation is widely recognised, but rather than having to invent the wheel for themselves, many people welcome a systematic textbook-backed immersion into principles and procedures that have been shown over two decades and many countries to generate constantly high-quality work.

Designed for PhD students and professional researchers, the course provides a thorough training in doing BNIM biographic narrative interviews, together with 'hands-on experience' of following BNIM interpretation procedures. Students develop a sense of how their own research projects might use such aspects and components.

With two tutors (Tom Wengraf and Mariya Stoilova), we ensure close coaching and support for the intensive work that is needed for you to fully acquire both the understanding of principles and also the practical capacity for proceeding with the systematic procedures involved in BNIM – usable both for BNIM but also for other types of narrative interviewing and interpretation.

CONTACT: To apply for a place, please contact tom@tomwengraf.com.

### **PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Project: The social construction of border zones: A comparison of two geopo-

litical cases

Principal investigators: Prof. Dr. Gabriele Rosenthal (Georg-August Universität Göttingen), Dr.

Efrat Ben-Zeev & Dr. Nir Gazit (Ruppin Academic Center, Jerusalem)

**Researchers:** Eva Bahl, M.A.; Habtom Mehari; Or Macover, B.A. Arne Worm, M.A.

**Funded by:** German Research Foundation (DFG)

Pilot study: by Efrat Ben-Zeev and Nir Gazit sponsored from 2012-2014 by The

Harry S. Truman Research Institute Grant, Hebrew University and the

Ruppin Academic Center)

**Duration of the Project:** 01.03. 2014- 28.02.2017

The project examines the social construction of border zones and border activities as well as the processes by which they are transformed. In our selected cases, the borders gradually changed in recent years from being relatively porous for irregular migrants to their almost complete closure. In both cases, though, the border is made porous again through the pressure exercised by migrants and smugglers. We will focus on two structurally very different geopolitical contexts: on the one hand the border regions between African countries and Spain - the maritime border between West Africa and the Canary islands and the border region between Morocco and the Spanish exclaves Ceuta and Melilla and on the other hand, the border region between Egypt and Israel. This contrastive comparison will help to reconstruct similarities and differences in the construction of border zones and in the practical reality of their implementation by the (inter-) actions of members of different groupings within these localities - the 'doing' of borders. The centers of attention will be, firstly, on the subjective experiences of members of different groupings which are involved in 'border activities' (migrants, policing forces, NGOs, smugglers, inhabitants of border regions, etc.) and the processes of the genesis of their perspectives; secondly on the figurations between and within these groupings which have unequal power chances and, thirdly, on their concrete interactions in everyday life. Apart from the ethnographic research on current experiences of actors and on face-to-face interactions between members of different groupings, we are also interested in the reconstruction of divergent collective, family and life histories resp. of stocks of knowledge of illegalized/irregular migrants in regard to different border areas. Furthermore, we will ask how informal (or unofficial) practices of actors (those practices besides formalized practices of governmental and non-governmental organizations and groupings) are interwoven with formal migration policies and legal frameworks.

### First empirical observations: at the border between Morocco and Melilla (Spain)

In April/May 2014, we<sup>1</sup> were in Melilla for our first field stay. In that period of time there was again an increased international media attention focusing on the – at first sight seemingly insuperable – border

<sup>1</sup> The authors Eva Bahl, Gabriele Rosenthal und Arne Worm.

fence between the Spanish exclave and Morocco which, however, hundreds of migrants had managed to surmount in the weeks before.<sup>2</sup>

The main impression of this stay was that the international media coverage offers a rather one-sided and stereotypical image of this border. Much of what can be observed comparably easy on-site remains frequently unmentioned and has, however, complex reasons at the same time. The absence of the Syrian and Algerian migrants in the coverage is especially striking. Usually, the news are about young Black men<sup>3</sup> on both sides of the fence surrounding Melilla. These are on the one hand those who are staying in irregular camps which are located in the forest on the Gourugu Mountain (on the Moroccan side of the border). They are trying and failing to surmount the fence again and again. At the same time, they are being harassed by the Moroccan police, persecuted, injured (sometimes mortally) and expelled violently. On the other hand, there are those who "made it", but who are now staying in the *Centro de Estancia Temporal de Inmigrantes* (CETI), the local refugee camp that is located in the city's periphery. There they have to wait until they will finally be brought from Melilla to the European continent. In most cases they don't have any insight in the further procedure awaiting them.

In the following, before we elaborate on the homogenizing depiction of the young migrants from many different countries in sub-Saharan Africa which neglects the tremendous efforts they had to invest in their migration usually involving considerable burdens as well as a considerable capacity to organize and to orientate themselves, we first want to expand on some observations concerning the Syrian and Algerian migrants.

We had an informal talk with a Guardia Civil officer at the border crossing Beni Enzar. He claimed that the Syrian refugees make up at least *half of* the migrants who are currently crossing the border irregularly. He added: "But nobody's talking about that." 5

As we learnt during some ethnographic interviews and a group discussion with several Syrian men we had met outside the CETI, the Syrian refugees are crossing the border using fake Moroccan passports. This is possible because Moroccans from the neighbouring regions Tetouan and Nador are exempted from the visa requirements for the autonomous Spanish cities of Melilla and Ceuta.<sup>6</sup> The very large

\_

Cf. TAZ (18.03.2014, http://www.taz.de/!135090/, retrieved 17.06.2014); FAZ (08.04.2014, http://www.faz.net/aktuell/politik/ausland/fluechtlinge-menschenhaendler-passen-ihre-routen-nach-europa-an-12884547.html, retrieved 17.06.2014); Spiegel-Online (17.02.2014, http://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/melilla-30-000-fluechtlinge-wollen-ueber-spanische-exklave-in-die-eu-a-954012.html, retrieved 17.06.2014); New York Times (27.02.2014, http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/28/world/europe/africans-battered-and-broke-surge-to-europes-door.html?\_r=0, retrieved 17.06.2014).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> We capitalize "Black" to emphasize that this – originally stigmatizing – social construction has also become a political self-description.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> In the CETI-camp, Syrians are at present the biggest group after refugees from Mali. Cf. El Faro Digital: El número de sirios en el CETI se triplica en apenas mes y medio (http://elfarodigital.es/melilla/sucesos/144411-el-numero-de-sirios-en-el-ceti-se-triplica-en-apenas-mes-y-medio.html#sthash.uKzXOBvt.dpuf, retrieved 18.6.2014).

More specifically, in the research process we will try to interview (insofar as is possible) border officials and to reconstruct their perspectives and patterns of action. In the conversations, their depiction of the situation at the border ranged from an emphasis of the necessity to maintain migration controls to feelings of being unable to cope with this task and of being "left alone" due to the lack of support of other European countries. Additionally, they stress that this border is a European matter and most migrants won't stay in Spain anyway. The involvement of Spanish border officers in documented violations of human rights (Cf. Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de Andalucía (APDHA): Derechos Humanos en la Frontera Sur 2014: http://www.apdha.org/media/frontera\_sur\_2014\_web.pdf, retrieved 17.6.2014) was expectedly not addressed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> "Cf. the following document about Spain's accession to the Schengen Area - Declaration concerning the cities Ceuta and Melilla: https://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-1994-7586 (retrieved 5.6.2014)."

number of daily border crossings add to make this migration route difficult to be controlled. At the checkpoint, an officer of the Guardia Civil told us: "We are requested to guarantee security and a smooth progress at the border. This is a contradiction in itself."

Migrants from Algeria are even less represented in the media coverage. According to the daily Melilla Hoy of April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014, in April 2014 200 of the 1800 people in CETI were Algerians. Until the end of 2013 they had even formed the largest group. Syrian CETI-residents told us that the Algerians often remain in the CETI for a very long period of time (for several years) as their first and foremost goal was to apply for the Spanish citizenship.<sup>7</sup>

News items do not live up to this complexity and multiplicity of migration movements at the border of Melilla. Syrians crossing the border using Moroccan passports and women and children in rubber boats produce images which are less spectacular than images of migrants trying to surmount the fence or their almost warlike interactions with the guards on both sides of the border. And neither Syrians nor Algerians nor the migrants from the various countries of south of the Sahara fit the picture of "poverty migrants" who attempt a "run" on the "bulwark" Europe. This stereotypical image shows cracks if we look closer at the multiplicity of backgrounds, motivations, and at the social, cultural, and economic capital (in the sense of Pierre Bourdieu) of those crossing the border irregularly.

Thus, the image conveyed through the media about the migrants from sub-Saharan countries is changing if we meet these migrants and engage in a conversation and listen to their biographical accounts which go beyond the practiced we-presentations and self-presentations. The young migrants from the diverse countries in sub-Saharan Africa are a grouping way less homogenous than the stereotypical media images suggest. Most of the migrants from Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Cameroon with whom we conducted ethnographic or biographical interviews had in common that their markedly difficult and partly perilous route forced them to thousands of overland kilometers, cost them a considerable amount of money, and that they were on the road on their own or with peers. Furthermore, it became apparent how enormously important their intellectual and social competences were to succeed on their route: they were sometimes required to adopt resp. invent a new national, ethnic or religious belonging and they needed to have the necessary means (such as a mobile phone or appropriate language skills) to gather the information needed. In contrast, their life histories differed considerably with regard to the family and life historical constellations when they were departing from their countries of origin, regarding their motives for migration as well as concerning the experienced difficulties during their journey. The length of their migration process to date was first and foremost dependent on their financial resources. Also the experience of the relations to other migrants and the necessity to accomplish different self-presentations during the migration was presented quite differently.

The life-historical constellations which conditioned a departure from their context of origin – partly not with the intention to go to Europe – vary widely. They range from fleeing from collective violence or also familial conflicts, to the wish to enhance their own professional or educational careers. Their sometime ambitious educational aspirations aim at a continuation of their higher education at a European university. Regarding the complex figurations of the migrants with each other, we received markedly diverging depictions. On the one hand, some were emphasizing the solidarity among each

-

Migrants who were granted the refugee status are entitled to apply for citizenship if they have stayed in Spain for five years. Cf. http://www.mjusticia.gob.es/cs/Satellite/es/1215198282620/Estructura\_P/1215198291413/Detalle.html (retrieved 17.6.2014).

other – especially along the lines of national belonging – and made it clear how necessary this was for a successful migration. On the other hand, other migrants were criticizing power inequalities between and within the different groupings as well as the authority of the leaders, talking about the resulting injustices which they experienced. Most notably visible is the clear tension between francophone and anglophone migrants.

Oftentimes, these migrants had a high social, cultural and/or economic capital; to exemplify, we only name their networks which include siblings and friends who have already migrated to Europe, a (at least started) university education, or language skills. Economic capital and especially the ways to access it, are a further important component of a successful migration strategy. Several men told us that they had carried cash on their body and that, hence, they were exposed to blackmail, theft, and assaults. Therefore, they needed a longer time for their migration route. They were thus forced to work for some time in the countries they were in and to use cheaper transportations routes. Others, however, had stashed money at trustworthy friends and had it then delivered in stages via money transfer services such as MoneyGram or Western Union. An interviewee told us about informal "banks" along the route. One could hand over money there to have it sent to oneself later on (e.g. after the successful border crossing).

These rather sophisticated "practices and strategies of migration" remain underexposed in the countless media reports. Often they are described in a generalizing and undifferentiated way as dubious mafia activities, although strategies of networking, transferring knowledge and gaining support during the migration cannot be captured in such simplistic terms. Rather these activities are embedded in a framework of unequal power balances, on the one hand between the migrants themselves and on the other hand between them and other actors (e.g. the local population in transit countries). The resulting dynamics of their interactions may be described as a complex and partly contradictory pattern oscillating between economic profit orientation and solidarity.

What equally does not appear at all, or only at the margins, are migrating women and children. They don't cross the border via the fence, but by rubber boat or hidden in cars. Here it has to be considered that these routes on the one hand require a way larger economic capital, but less bodily fitness than the surmounting of the fence. On the other hand, the passage is way less dangerous for the migrants' lives in this geographical context.

\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Marion von Osten 2007<sup>2</sup>: Eine Bewegung für die Zukunft. Die Bedeutung des Blickregimes der Migration für die Produktion der Ausstellung Projekt Migration. In: Transit Migration Forschungsgruppe (Ed.): Turbulente Ränder. Neue Perspektiven auf Migration an den Grenzen Europas. Bielefeld: Transcript. p. 180 (our translation).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> During an informal talk with some Guardia Civil agents, they were explaining that the first woman had crossed the fence a month before. According to them, it was otherwise a migration route only used by men. The USECNetwork-Magazin, citing local NGOs, has it that in February 2014 already the third woman in ten years had crossed the fence (but she was the first minor and additionally suffered a broken shinbone) (<a href="http://usecmagazine.usecnetwork.com/?p=105235">http://usecmagazine.usecnetwork.com/?p=105235</a>, retrieved 2.6.2014).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Images of rubber boats are very much present in the media. But they usually serve to illustrate the crossing of the Mediterranean in the Aegean Sea or towards Lampedusa. In Melilla, the rubber boats are taking short trips along the coast. Cf. BBC: Syrians accuse Greece of 'pushing back' migrant boats (http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-22757485, retrieved 18.6.2014); i24 news: Italy rescues 1,100 boat migrants, warns of surge (http://www.i24news.tv/en/news/international/europe/140206-italy-rescues-1-100-boat-migrants-warns-of-surge, trieved 18.6.2014).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> A trip that is comparable to the surmounting of the fence regarding the low financial costs and the high danger for life and health is the way across the water (without rubber boats). This strategy gained notoriety when at least 13 young men from Western Africa drowned while they were trying to get to Ceuta swimming. According to the NGO Caminando Fronteras,

In our further research work, which will include the Spanish exclave Ceuta during the next field stay, we will specifically follow up the heterogeneity in the social construction of borders – the varying practices of action and patterns of interpretation of the different actors, their genesis, and their interdependency. Above all, it will be necessary to focus more than before on the perspectives and life historical experiences of Spanish (Muslims and Christians) inhabitants of Melilla and Ceuta in reference to the borde

### Eva Bahl, Gabriele Rosenthal & Arne Worm, June 2014

### Observations from the Egyptian-Israeli Border

Our study considers social groups associated with the Egyptian Israeli border: Eritreans who have arrived in Israel through this border, Bedouins living near it, Israeli soldiers stationed on it and Israeli settlers who have chosen this location, at the margins. There are other populations along this border but due difficulty of access, we will discuss them only indirectly: Bedouins dwelling on the Egyptian side, the Egyptian police manning the border, the Multi National Task Force (stationed in the northern Sinai) and agricultural laborers brought in from Asia to work on the border plantations.

Why focus on this specific border, stretching from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea? This is a line that may be defined as a boundary between Asia and Africa. To some extent it is an exemplary border since it divides the richer 'north' from the poorer 'south' and the flow of migration is from south to north. It is also a border with two different forms of governance on each side. On the Egyptian side is the Sinai Peninsula, settled mostly by Bedouins and only partially controlled by a state apparatus. In this 'vacuum,' prominent features are insurgents' armed activities, smuggling networks and torture camps established to extract ransom from abducted migrants. In contrast, the Israeli side of the border has evident indications of governance, including army camps, the state's largest prison, a detention center for 'illegal' migrants and a state-sponsored settlement project.

Fieldwork, which began in 2012, came at a time of dramatic changes along this border. In reaction to the growing numbers of those arriving through this border, the government of Israel built a fortified fence (between 2012 and 2014) along its 240 kilometers as well as a large detention center for those arriving. Our study followed the changes. As we have already interviewed settlers, soldiers, and Eritreans, in what follows we summarize some of our initial observations.

With regards to the Jewish settlers, we have recently completed a paper titled "The Quest for a Neo Frontier: Settlers on the Egyptian-Israeli Border." The paper explores the border narratives of Jewish settlers who have moved there since it was set in 1982, following the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement. We develop the term "neo-frontier" to describe a mindset that characterizes these settlers. Being distant from the state's center and far from urbanity, the neo-frontier is constructed as a place detached from the common social order and from mainstream ideas. It resembles the classical Fredrick Jackson Turner frontier in its pioneering spirit, the search for an untouched land, and it walks a thin line between hyper-individualism and hyper-communality. It is also characterized by an ambivalent stance towards the indigenous dispossessed population, often treated as noble savages. While the

government expects the settlers to "see like a state" (to paraphrase James Scott, 1998<sup>12</sup>) or at the minimum, to comply with the state's maneuver between permeable and penetrable borders, the settlers are not quick to adapt. Some settlers adopt a post-national order (if somewhat nascent), both nostalgic and utopic in nature, longing for an open, non-statist spatiality.

We have also begun analyzing the interviews conducted with Israeli soldiers who were stationed at this border. There are three main discursive tags used by the soldiers when engaging with the border's social groups - security, criminality and humanitarianism. Although each of these tends to be related to a specific social group (insurgents, Bedouins and refugees, respectably), the three easily collapse into one another and the identity of a group swiftly changes in the soldiers' narratives. The African migrants' identities range from poor refugees to threatening infiltrators. The Bedouins are the talented trackers, shrewd smugglers and cruel oppressors incarcerating poor Africans for ransom. The Egyptians are simultaneously corrupted bandits and poor prisoners turned soldiers. We suspect that the unstable border reality, including the Israeli government's erratic policy, the influx of the African migrants and the instability in the Sinai, foster these incoherent identities. We see that the soldiers' border narratives reflect incoherent representations both of border populations as well as the role of the soldiers themselves. One could almost argue that the most stable characteristic of their border experience is its instability.

Our next steps are to continue biographical interviews with Eritreans and study the Azazmeh Bedouins point of view regarding the border. In both cases the narratives will be analyzed as part of a broader ethnographic perspective. Gradually, we hope to expand the comparative dimension by looking at "our border" in light of the findings in Ceuta and Melilla and vice-a-versa.

Efrat Ben-Ze'ev and Nir Gazit, 19 June 2014

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Scott, James C. Seeing like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed. Yale University Press, 1998.

### **NEWS**

### **Obituary Aili Aarelaid-Tart** 13

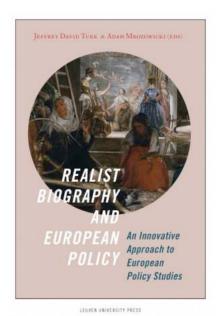
It is with great regret that we hear of the death of Aili Aarelaid-Tart, who was one of the pioneers of biographical sociological research in the Baltics. She played a leading role in developing the Biographical Research on European Societies Research Network of the European Sociological Association, and served as an active member of the Board for many years. She was a prolific researcher and contributed original papers to almost every Bi-annual Conference of the ESA, and would often suggest and organise a stream within the Research Network's offerings, usually with a focus on the Baltics. She also contributed a chapter on 'Estonia-inclined Communists as Marginals' to an edited collection of the Research Network's early work on Biographical Research in Eastern Europe (Ashgate, 2003), which epitomised her passion for employing the biographical approach to capture and illuminate the extraordinary changes her family and country were experiencing during that time. The book was launched at a conference of Estonian sociologists in Tallinn, and Robin enjoyed the hospitality of Aili, and her husband, the poet Indrek Tart, at their flat in Tallinn. Coincidently, Indrek had recently been a guest of Colpitts Poetry in Robin's home town of Durham City, in the North East of England. The conversation that evening ranged from the past to the present, but as always with Aili she became most animated when talking about future possibilities of research and publications. Her hard work, imagination and enthusiasm will be greatly missed by her colleagues across in the Research Network across Europe and beyond.

Robin Humphrey, UK (<u>robin.humphrey@newcastle.ac.uk</u>)
Robert Miller, UK (Robert Miller r.miller@qub.ac.uk)

-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Published originally in the newsletter of the European Sociological Association

### **NEW PUBLICATION**



Turk, Jeffrey David/Mrozowicki, Adam (Eds.)(2013): Realist Biography and European Policy. An Innovative Approach to European Policy Studies, Leuven: Leuven University Press ISBN: 9789058679710

Realist Biography and European Policy is the first concerted attempt to integrate the separate strands of (critical) realism as a developed philosophy for social science with biographical narrative methods as a concrete methodological approach. The main goal is to demonstrate that the combination of critical realism and biographical methods is not only possible, but it is exceptionally well suited for the exploration of newly emerging research fields within European policy studies.

Contributing authors: Tatiana Bajuk Senčar (Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Institute of Slove-

nian Ethnology), Bob Carter (University of Leicester, Department of Sociology), Prue Chamberlayne (Open University, Faculty of Health and Social Care), Markieta Domecka (independent researcher), Norbert Kluge (coordinator and adviser for the European Works Council of ThyssenKrupp AG), Lyudmila Nurse (director of Oxford XXI), Elisabetta Perone (University of Naples Federico II), Valeria Pulignano (Centre for Sociological Research, KU Leuven), Antonella Spanò (University of Naples Federico II), Tom Wengraf (Middlesex University).

### **Articles**

Breckner, Roswitha (2014) Collective Identities in Migration. Biographical Perspectives on Ambivalences and Paradoxes. *Sociology and Anthropology, 2*, 15-24

Breckner, Roswitha (2014) Offenheit – Kontingenz – Grenze? Interpretation einer Porträtfotografie, in: Michael R. Müller, Jürgen Raab, Hans-Georg Soeffner (Hg.) Grenzen der Bildinterpretation, Wiesbaden: VS-Verlag, 123-154

Breckner, Roswitha (2013) Geschlechter Un/Ordnung im Bild. Visuelle Segmentanalyse als Zugang zur leiblichen Performativität bildlicher Darstellungen, in: Mechthild Bereswill und Katharina Liebsch (Hg.) Geschlecht (re)konstruieren. Zur methodologischen und methodischen Produktivität der Frauen- und Geschlechterforschung, Münster: Westfälisches Dampfboot, 172-195

Breckner, Roswitha (2013) Bild und Biographie – ein Kaleidoskop von Selbstbildern?, in: Carsten Heinze und Alfred Hornung (Hg.) Medialisierungsformen des (Auto)Biographischen, Konstanz: UV, 159-180

### Please let us know about changes of

- your e-mail address
- your full mail address

Our e-mail address is:

Biography-and-Society@gmx.de

The deadline for the next newsletter is end of October 2014

### President:

Roswitha Breckner University of Vienna, Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of Sociology Rooseveltplatz 2, A-1090 Vienna, Austria phone: ++43 1 4277 48217

fax: ++43 1 4277 49101

e-mail: roswitha.breckner@univie.ac.at

### Vice President:

Michaela Koettig University of Applied Sciences Department Health and Social Work Nibelungenplatz 1 60318 Frankfurt a. M., Germany phone: ++49 69 1533 2647

Secretary:

Irini Siouti
FB Gesellschaftswissenschaften
J.W. Goethe-University Frankfurt
Robert- Mayer-Str.5
60054 Frankfurt am Main, Germany
phone: ++ 49 69 798-28776
e-mail: Siouti@soz.uni-frankfurt.de

e-mail: michaela.koettig@gmx.de

### **Board Members:**

Ursula Apitzsch
J.W.Goethe University
FB Gesellschaftswissenschaften
Robert Mayerstr. 5
60054 Frankfurt M, Germany
fax: ++49 69 79822539
e-mail: apitzsch@soz.uni-frankfurt.de

Susan E. Bell
Bowdoin College
Department of Sociology and
Anthropology
7000 College Station
Brunswick, ME 04011-8470, USA
phone: ++1 207 725 3292
e-mail: sbell@bowdoin.edu

Julia Bernstein
Institute II for Comparative
Educational Studies and Social Sciences Cologne University
Gronewaldstr. 2
50931 Cologne, Germany
phone: ++49-6969534735
e-mail: juliaber@soz.uni-frankfurt.de

Daniel Bertaux 5, rue des Hauts Closeaux 92310 Sèvres, France phone: ++33672147285 e-mail: Daniel.bertaux@misha.fr Thea Boldt
Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut
Goethestr. 31
D - 45128 Essen/Germany
phone: +49 201 72 04 113
fax: ++49 (0) 2 01 - 72 04 - 111
e-mail: thea.boldt@kwi-nrw.de

Kathy Davis
VU University
Faculty of Social Sciences
Buitenveldertselaan 3
1082 VA Amsterdam/
Netherlands
phone: +31 20598 6748
e-mail: K.E.Davis@uu.nl

Markieta Domecka Queen's University Belfast School of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work 6 College Park BT7 1LP Belfast, Northern Ireland phone: +44-028-9097-3432 e-mail: markieta.domecka@gmail.com

Lena Inowlocki
Department Health and Social Work
Frankfurt University Applied Science
Nibelungenplatz 15
60318 Frankfurt M, Germany
phone: ++49 69 556 740
fax: ++49 69 9552 4028
e-mail: inowlocki@soz.uni-frankfurt.de

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

Andreas Oskar Kempf GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences Unter Sachsenhausen 6-8 50667 Köln, Germany phone: ++49 221-47694-207 e-mail: andreas.kempf@gesis.org

Tazuko Kobayashi Hitotsubashi University Graduates School of Social Sciences 2-1 Naka, Kunitachi Tokyo 186-8681 Japan phone: ++81-42-580-8872 e-mail: t.kobayashi@srv.cc.hit-u.ac.jp Feiwel Kupferberg Malmö University 20506 Malmö/Sweden phone: ++46 40 6658079 e-mail: feiwel.kupferberg@mah.se

Henning Salling Olesen Graduate School in Life Long Learning, University of Roskilde P.O.-Box 260 4000 Roskilde/Denmark phone: ++45-46742672 fax: ++45-46743070 e-mail: hso@ruc.dk

Marilyn Porter Department of Sociology Memorial University, St John's Newfoundland A1C2Z1, Canada phone: ++709 739 7982 fax: ++709 739 0838 e-mail: mporter@mun.ca

Gabriele Rosenthal
University of Goettingen
Methodenzentrum Sozialwissenschaften
Platz der Goettinger Sieben 3
37073 Goettingen, Germany
phone: ++49 551 39 12413
e-mail: g.rosenthal@gmx.de

Julia Vajda
ELTE University
Faculty of social sciences
Institute of Sociology
1117 Budapest, Pázmány
Péter sétány 1/a, Hungary
phone: ++36 1 336 14 52
e-mail: h13073vaj@ella.hu

Hee-Young Yi
Department of Sociology
Daegu University
201 Daegudero, Jillyang Gyeongsan
712-714 Gyeongbuk, Korea
phone: ++82 53 850 6333
fax: ++82 53 850 6339
e-mail: biograf@hanmail.net