

# European Sociologist

ES

Bulletin of the European Sociological Association (ESA)

Number 4 Summer 1996

Please disseminate or pass this bulletin on to interested colleagues.

## contents

3rd European  
Conference of Sociology

Research Network  
Updates

European Union Social  
Science Research

Report of ESA Executive  
Committee Meeting

The British Council,  
Sociology and Social  
Development

Greek Sociology: Does it  
really exist ?

Registration Forms

## 3rd EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF SOCIOLOGY

"20th Century Europe:  
Inclusions/Exclusions"

*CALL FOR PAPERS*

The European Sociological Association hosts its Third European Conference on August 27-30 1997 at the University of Essex in Colchester, north of London. The conference theme is **20th Century Europe: Inclusions/Exclusions**. The theme will be explored focusing particularly on the issues of **gender, ethnicity, class and age** in the restructuring of European societies throughout this century and the role of European sociological insights in the understanding of inclusionary and exclusionary changes. Sessions will be organized around the following themes:

### Revisiting Classical Theory

Modernity and Post modernism  
Feminist Theory Meets the Classics  
A Sunset of Socialism?

### Work, Welfare and Citizenship

Welfare States, Welfare Societies  
Gender and Citizenship  
Inclusions/Exclusions: Power and ethnicity  
Research Network: Gender Relations in the Labour Market and the Welfare State  
Research Network: Industrial Relations, Labour Markets, institutions and Employment

### Inequalities Old and New

New Forms of Patriarchy  
Generational Contracts and Conflicts

### ~~A Future for Social Class?~~

Ethnicities, Racism and Nations  
Research Network: Youth and Generations in Europe

## Globalizations

Globalization, Social and Economic Restructuring

Migration and Fortress Europe  
Globalization and Environment: *Future Technology*

## European Processes, Boundaries and Institutions

East Meets West

Social Rights and Economic Power

Europe of the Regions

Social Movements

Democracy in Europe: Institutions and citizenship

## Cultures and Identities

Sexual Citizenship

Cultural Identity and

Homogenisation?

Technology and Culture

European Values Studies *in Transition*

Research Network: Biographical

Perspectives On European Societies

Research Network: Family Sociology *Europe*

Research Network: Sociology of

Consumption

Research Network: Sociology of the

Mass Media and Communication

*RD: Economic Sociology  
RD: Migration of People  
RD: Europe*

The main activities at the Conference

will be Plenary and semi-Plenary

sessions and up to five "working

group" sessions in which papers will

be presented.

Other activities will include:

- Lunchtime "roundtables";
- "Meet the Authors" of new books;
- Workshops on specific skills such as SCROLL, Internet communications, software, the Essex Data Archive and other European data archives;
- Meet the European research funders (e.g., EU, ESRC);
- Researcher "roundtables" on European research projects;
- a Collaborative research "marketplace";
- a "British Panel" discussion.

Suggestions are welcome for the "round tables" and workshops.

The European Sociological Association invites scholars working on European questions to submit ideas for papers (Abstracts of 250 words due by **15 January 1997**) and expressions of interest to:  
Organiser - ESA Conference  
University of Essex  
Wivenhoe Park  
Colchester, Essex  
CO4 3SQ United Kingdom  
Fax: +44 1206 873410  
e-mail: ESA97@essex.ac.uk

# Communicating with the ESA

The ESA maintains its Secretariat at SISWO, the Dutch social science research support organisation, in Amsterdam. Normal enquiries, applications for membership in the ESA, material being submitted for this newsletter etc should all go directly to the Secretariat at the following address: Secretariat ESA  
Bernard Kruithof/Monique van der Laan, SISWO  
Plantage Muidergracht 4  
NL-1018 TV Amsterdam,  
The Netherlands  
tel: +31 20 527 0646  
Fax: +31 20 622 9430  
e-mail: kruithof@siswo.uva.nl  
monique@siswo.uva.nl

In addition to its printed form, the newsletter is set up as a discussion list supported by the MAILBASE service at Newcastle University, United Kingdom. To receive information about Mailbase and about joining discussion lists, send the following command in an e-mail message to  
mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk  
send mailbase user-guide

If you wish to join the discussion list of the European Sociological Association, send the following command to  
mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk  
join european-sociologist  
yourfirstname(s) yourlastname

As well as its e-mail facility, the ESA also maintains pages on the WorldWideWeb. Their entry-level address is:  
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/socsci/miller/esaintro.html>

In order to facilitate communication among members of the ESA Executive between Committee meetings, an e-mail list for the Executive Committee has been created. ESA members or others who wish to bring items to the direct attention to the ESA Executive Committee are invited to "post" material directly to this list at:  
ESA-EXEC@mailbase.ac.uk

(Please do not join this list yourself; as it is intended to be a "closed" discussion list for the Executive Committee.) Queries about specific Research Networks should be made directly to their convenors (names

and addresses listed in this newsletter). Queries about starting a new Research Network or general items about Networks can be made to the ESA Secretariat or to:

Martin Kohli  
Institute for Sociology  
Free University of Berlin  
Babelsburger Strasse 14-16  
D-10715 Berlin Germany  
tel: +49 30 8500 2210  
Fax: +49 30 8500 2205  
e-mail: kohli@zedat.fu-berlin.de

Finally, if you wish information on the 3rd European Conference of Sociology, to register, or to submit an abstract, contact: Conference Organiser - ESA Conference  
Department of Sociology  
University of Essex  
Wivenhoe Park  
Colchester, Essex  
CO4 3SQ United Kingdom  
Fax: +44 206 873410  
e-mail: ESA97@essex.ac.uk

## South European Society & Politics

The European Sociological Association has secured reduced subscription rates for its members who take this journal.

Subscription Rates: 3 issues per year  
Individual: £35, \$45 (£30 or \$36 for ESA individual members). When applying for subscription, state that you are a member of the ESA. (To avoid embarrassment, please do not claim the discount unless you are an ESA member.)

Institutional: £90 \$135

For subscriptions (except for North America), contact: Frank Cass & Co.  
Newbury House  
890-900 Eastern Avenue  
Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex  
IG7 7HH United Kingdom  
tel: +44 (0)181 599 8866  
Fax: +44 (0)181 599 0984  
e-mail: jnlsubs@frankcass.com

For subscriptions in North America, contact: Frank Cass & Co.  
C/o ISBS, 5804 NE Hassalo Street  
Portland, OR  
97213-3644 U.S.A.  
tel: (800) 944 6190  
Fax: (503) 280 8832  
e-mail: cass@isbs.com

Up to date information on the journal and subscription can also be made through the Frank Cass home page on the WorldWideWeb:  
<http://www.frankcass.com/jnl/sespp.htm>

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**  
**20th Century Europe: Inclusions/Exclusions**  
**European Sociological Association 3rd Conference**  
**University of Essex, August 27-30 1997**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I would be interested in receiving further information about the  
European Sociological Association 3rd Conference.

I anticipate presenting a paper.

Preliminary Title \_\_\_\_\_

which would be appropriate for the following theme(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Return to:

Organiser - ESA Conference  
University of Essex  
Wivenhoe Park  
Colchester, Essex  
CO4 3SQ United Kingdom

Fax: +44 1206 873410  
e-mail: ESA97@essex.ac.uk

# ESA RESEARCH NETWORKS UPDATE

The previous number of *European Sociologist* gave information about the Research Networks that had been approved by the ESA Executive Committee and also about other Networks that had been proposed but not yet accepted. Below, we repeat the name and contact address of the first-listed Convenor of each Research Networks and, for those that have sent in reports, updates on their activities since the last edition of the newsletter. Readers may wish to note that Research Networks will be allocated up to five slots plus a time for business meetings in the timetable of the 3rd European Conference of Sociology that will be held at the end of August 1997.

## Family Sociology

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## Biographical Perspectives On European Societies

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The Network will be organising an International Workshop on:

"Biographical Perspectives On Post-Socialist Societies"

with the assistance of the Centre for Independent Social Research, St.Petersburg, Russia (CISR) and MacArthurs Foundation, USA

The workshop will be held at the CISR, St.Petersburg, Russia, November 13-17th 1996.

Some key themes for the workshop are:

- biographical method: materials (types of human documents), analysis, translation;
- analyzing single case vs. multiple cases analysis;
- the past and present of life history research: is the boom over? and what are the trends?;
- the making of a person in various cultures in life stories;
- gender and sexuality in biography; biographies of men and women: autonomy vs. relationality;
- crucial events as described in the life story;
- generations and family histories; special topic: the 60s generation in East and West;
- guilt, violence and shame, discussed in life stories;
- special topic: repression in the socialist countries in life stories;
- private secrets and public secrets in life stories;
- framing and shaping of destinies in life stories.

The list is descriptive and good papers on other issues are welcomed.

Organizing Committee of the workshop: D.Bertaux; E.Haavio-Mannila; J.P. Roos; A.Rotkirch; V.Voronkov; E.Zdravomyslova.

Those wishing to give papers should submit abstracts immediately. Full manuscripts are required by the end of October, 1996.

Contact person:  
Viktor Voronkov,  
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191002, St.Petersburg-2  
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## Youth and Generations in Europe

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## Gender Relations in the Labour Market and the Welfare State

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## Industrial Relations, Labour Market Institutions and Employment

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Bruennner Strasse 72  
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## Sociology of Mass Media and Communications

[This Network was approved at the March 1996 meeting of the ESA Executive Committee.]

Peter Golding  
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P.Golding@loughborough.ac.uk

The Network been compiling expressions of interest into a database (well, register would be more accurate and less pretentious). Thank you for your interest. —Peter Golding

## Sociology of Consumption

[This Network was approved at the March 1996 meeting of the ESA Executive Committee.]

Kaj Ilmonen  
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P.O. Box 35  
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The Network will be sponsoring a Conference on: "The Sociology of Consumption" at Tallinn, Estonia, 29 August - 1 September 1996.

Proposed themes:

- Consumption as an integral part of modern life;
- Urbanism and consumer culture;
- The social dimension of consumption;
- Consumption and everyday life; Pleasures and routine activities in consumption;
- Their relationship to the reproduction of social order (of gender, age, religious groupings, race etc);
- Their relationship to time and space;
- Theoretical discussions of these areas.

Those interested in participating in the conference should contact Kaj Ilmonen immediately.

## PROPOSED NETWORKS

### Economic Sociology

György Lengyel  
Budapest University of Economic Sciences  
Department of Sociology  
Bp. Fővám t. 8  
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tel/Fax: +36 1 2175-172  
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### Sociology of Environment

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13 Manor Park Gardens  
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+44 (181) 952-5094  
[Name of contact person may change]

### Sociology of Disasters

*enc 2 eexi.gr*  
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### Sociology of Education

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P. Psichico  
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Fax: +30 64.60.658  
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## OTHER NETWORKS

Southern Regional Network  
Gabriella Lazaridis

Chair, Regional Network on Southern European Societies.  
Department of Political Science & Social Policy  
Univ. Of Dundee  
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tel: +44 1382 344656  
fax: +44 1382 344675  
e-mail: g.lazaridis@dundee.ac.uk

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Fax: +301 3225542;  
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tel: +44 1223 358493 or 335729;  
Fax: +44 1223 514717.

The Network, which at present has around 120 members, was successfully launched at the Conference on 'Nation and Migration in Southern Europe' which took place during December, 1995 at the University of Greenwich, U.K.

In collaboration with the Greek National Centre for Social Research the Network is organising a Conference on 'Social Research and Social Policy in Southern Europe'; which will take place at the University of Athens on 13-14 September 1996.

### Conference Themes :

- European Social Policy;
- National Welfare Regimes;
- Social Protection (including Social Security Systems, Pensions, Care for the Elderly, Disabled People, Health Care);
- Personal Social Services;
- Family Policies;
- Social Exclusion and Inequality (including Gender and Welfare, Unemployment, Ethnic Minorities);
- Deviance;
- Comparative Social Research.

### Organising Committee:

Prof. Nikiforos Diamandouros (Director) and Dr. Ioanna Tsigganou, both of the Greek National Centre for Social Research,  
Mesogion 14-16,  
Athens 115 10, Greece  
tel: +301 7489131  
Fax: +301 7489127;

Prof. Alexandros Kyrtis;  
University of Athens,  
Department of Economics,  
8 Pezmazoglou Street,  
105 59 Athens,  
Greece.  
tel: +301 3236527;  
Fax: +301 3225542 ;  
e-mail: Kyrtis@compulink.gr

Dr. Gabriella Lazaridis, Regional Network on Southern European Societies (Chair)  
Department of Political Science and Social Policy,  
University of Dundee  
Dundee, DD1 4HN  
United Kingdom  
tel: +44 1382 344205;  
Fax: +44 1382 344675;  
e-mail: g.lazaridis@dundee.ac.uk

Those wishing further information and/or wishing to submit a paper should contact Ioanna Tsigganou immediately.

### Methods of Comparative Research on Europe (RENCORE)

Nigel Gilbert  
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University of Surrey  
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United Kingdom  
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Members of Research Networks are requested to join the European Sociological Association as individual members if they already have not done so.

# European Union Social Science Research: Chinks in the wall

by Nigel Gilbert \*

The European Union sets aside large amounts of money to support research and research related activities: over 13,000 million ECU over the five years, 1994 to 1998. Of this total, only a small amount goes to social science research, and only a fraction of that is for sociological research, but the amounts of money are so large that even small fractions amount to sizeable sums. This note plots the main areas of EU funding of social science research and looks towards the likely future shape of the social science within the EU research effort.

The overall research programme of the EU is called the Framework. There is a new Framework agreed each five years, with the current one, the Fourth Framework Programme (FP-IV), scheduled to continue until 1998. Each Framework programme has differed slightly from its predecessor, with the general trend being towards growth in terms of the amounts of money and the number of projects supported, wider coverage of the sciences, and support of ever more policy oriented work. The fifth Framework programme is now in the process of being developed, but it is still too early to say what it will look like.

The Framework Programme as a whole encompasses four 'activities':

- research and development itself, which is by far the largest of the four;
- cooperation with non-EU countries, supporting various fellowships and joint project schemes primarily with Central and Eastern Europe and Japan;
- dissemination;
- and finally the Training and Mobility of Researchers (TMR), which funds doctoral and post-doctoral researchers to spend time in another EU country.

The first activity, the one that supports research, is in turn divided into seven 'themes':

- Information and Communication Technologies;
- Industrial Technologies;
- Environment and Climate;
- Life Sciences and Technologies;
- Energy;
- Transport;
- Targeted Socio-Economic research.

The last of these, the Targeted Socio-Economic Research (TSER) programme, is the one most obviously of interest to sociologists, but it is also by a considerable margin the smallest and the newest of the programmes, with a total budget of 147 million ECU. Although the other themes may look as though they are for scientists and engineers only, sociologists do have opportunities in these also. When FP-IV was set up, there was some disagreement between the European Commission and the European Parliament about its content. One of the outcomes was that the Parliament insisted that all FP-IV programmes should be required to consider the social and economic impact of the research. Exactly what this might mean was never made very clear and in practice different programmes have interpreted this requirement in different ways. One common practice is to demand that all research proposals have a section which demonstrates how the socio-economic impact of the work will be assessed; however, in projects staffed by engineers or scientists, these assessments are often either not done at all or done poorly. Nevertheless, there are sometimes interesting opportunities to join cross-disciplinary teams to strengthen this aspect of a project. In addition, some programmes have sections which are specifically aimed at social science

research. The most notable of these is the section on the 'human dimension of environmental change' within the Environment and Climate theme, where social scientists figure largely within the approximately 20 million ECU budget. Other areas where social science input has been significant are in the industrial and material technologies theme (research on organisational factors in production systems, and technological and socio-economic risks of industrial developments) and in the Agriculture and Fisheries programme (FAIR) within the Life Sciences theme.

These secondary and rather subservient ways of involving social scientists were all there in previous Frameworks, but as a result of a great deal of lobbying, FP-IV has included a programme specifically for social science: Targeted socio-economic Research. The cumbersome name is significant. The Commission is very reluctant to fund research which could and perhaps should be funded by member states and would ideally wish to support only research which is targeted to its particular policy concerns. This means that the programme focuses on three areas that are considered to have direct policy relevance and which have a European dimension: science policy; education; and social exclusion.

So far, TSER has had its first call for proposals, in March 1995, and the first batch of projects have just started. A second call is expected in September or October 1996, and there will be a third call about a year later. The first call was greatly oversubscribed (with about 7 proposals to each one accepted in the science policy area, and about 9 proposals to each one accepted in the other two areas) and the second call is therefore likely to be even more tightly focused to reduce the number of proposals received.

TSER is managed by Commission officials in DGXII, one of the more than twenty Directorates-General (DGs) of the Commission. However, the work programme, that is, the specification of the research which is to be funded, is agreed with a Programme Committee made up of nominated delegates from each EU country. Relations between the Commission and the Programme Committee have not always been entirely smooth. The first call was

delayed because the Committee rejected a draft of the work programme put forward by the Commission, a most unusual occurrence. One of the problems is that there is relatively little social sciences expertise within DGXII. Moreover, the Programme Committee is mainly composed of civil servants from the Science Ministries of the EU nations whose links to the social sciences sometimes seem tenuous.

The Programme Committee does not evaluate proposals directly. Proposals are first checked for eligibility by the Commission (there must be at least three partners, from at least two EU states, and various other formal criteria have to be satisfied). Then proposals are assessed by a panel of evaluators, brought together for most of a week in a Brussels hotel. (In the case of the TSER first call, this evaluation coincided with the hottest week of 1995, so it is rumoured that tempers got very short among the evaluators). The evaluators assess the proposals for their technical and scientific merit, and rate them on a scale from A to C. Proposals ranked C are rejected immediately, but the remainder are brought to the Programme Committee. The Committee sees just the rating, a brief summary of the reasons for the rating, a one page summary provided by the proposers of the project, and the names of the institutions involved (and the countries in which they are located). Then the haggling starts, as there are always more good proposals than money available, so some judgement has to be made about which are to be funded. Equity between the countries and the balance of the programme are used as well as the gradings of the evaluators in arriving at a decision. Finally, the Commission tries to negotiate with proposers to reduce the cost of their projects (in the case of TSER, this resulted in some savage cuts) and the project is finally approved and underway.

#### What impact does FPIV funding have on the social sciences?

Direct impacts on disciplines are hard to identify, because TSER is too new to have had much influence. But the encouragement of comparative research, especially research carried out collaboratively, is bound to promote 'big' social science, involving teams of researchers in several

countries, above the small scale, one person research which has been typical of much empirical sociology. If you are applying for EU research funding it generally helps if:

- you already know colleagues from other countries with whom you can join to make a research team;
- you are already well informed about the mechanics of EU funding;
- your interest is in policy-oriented research;
- and you have access to quantitative data which has been collected in a number of EU countries to enable comparative analyses.

The danger is that EU funded research will become the prerogative of a small band of social scientists whose research and experience fits into this mould. There is also a danger that TSER will become a ghetto, unrelated to the rest of the Framework programme, or even that the slim foothold which the social sciences have obtained in FPIV will be lost in the Fifth Framework. The challenge for sociologists is to make the argument that the discipline is important even in the somewhat hostile environment of the EU.

#### Further reading:

The EU and member states produce a variety of brochures about the Framework programme. Each component programme also publishes a summary of the projects it funds. These can be obtained from local information points in each country.

The Commission has recently published a very useful digest of all the projects throughout FPIV which are concerned with socio-economic research: European Commission (June 1996) Socio-Economic Activities undertaken within the specific programmes of the IVth Framework Programme During 1995 (Brussels: European Commission, DGXII-H).

#### \* Biographical Note:

Nigel Gilbert is Professor of Sociology at the University of Surrey, United Kingdom.

He has received funding from the EU for projects under the ESPRIT, SEER and Human dimensions of environmental change programmes, and is the UK's nominated expert on the TSER Programme Committee (n.gilbert@soc.surrey.ac.uk).

## "GLOBALIZATION AND THE NEW INEQUALITY"

20-22 November 1996

Utrecht, The Netherlands

The Netherlands School for Social and Economic Policy Research (AWSB) announces an International Conference, "Globalization and the New Inequality". The Conference will focus on the social, cultural and economic consequences of globalization processes with an emphasis on the problems of old and new forms of social exclusion and inequality.

Keynote Speakers:- Alain Touraine; Goren Therborn; Saskia Sassen; Sid Tarrow; Abram de Swaan; Piotr Sztompka; Alejandro Portes; Bennet Harrison; Richard Falk

Workshops will be held on the following themes:

- Globalization and organized class relationships;
- Postindustrial economy and the fragmentation of family patterns;
- European welfare states;
- Migration, ethnicity and exclusion;
- Globalization and the distribution of incomes and wealth;
- Divided cities and new forms of urban marginality;
- Globalization and economic order: the role of Corporatism;
- Higher education;
- Globalization, law and criminality;
- Development studies;
- Globalization and cultural processes.

The cost of the conference will be approximately 100 ECU. This will include registration fee, lunches and drinks.

For information and registration, please contact:

Bart van Steenberg  
Chair, Executive Committee AWSB/  
ASW  
University of Utrecht  
Heidelberglaan 2  
3584 CS Utrecht, the Netherlands  
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# Report of ESA Executive Committee Meeting, Paris, 1-2 March 1996



Members of the Executive at work: Bernard Kruithof & Monique van der Laan (both of ESA Secretariat), Sylvia Walby (President), Thomas Boje (Treasurer).

The main item of business of the meeting was planning for the 3rd European Conference of Sociology. The conference: "20th Century Europe: Inclusions/Exclusions", will take place 27-13 August 1997 at the University of Essex, United Kingdom. A report of conference planning to date is given elsewhere in this newsletter.

Other items of business included:

- plans for increasing membership in the ESA. Crucial to this are the provision facilities for prospective members who wish to pay by credit card and the need to ensure that members of the Research Networks join the ESA itself. (Credit card payment facilities are now available and details are included on the Membership Application Form in this newsletter.);
- Research Networks. Two new ESA Research Networks were approved: the Sociology of Consumption and the Sociology of Mass Media Communications. (An update on the activities of the Research Networks is given in this newsletter.) The Executive also confirmed acceptance of the Southern Regional Network and agreed that other regional networks may be accepted if applications come forward;
- negotiations with publishers were discussed. The next newsletter will contain a report of the publications plans of the ESA.

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## The British Council, Sociology and Social Development

**Ann Keeling,**  
Social Policy and Gender Consultant,  
British Council

The British Council is better known in many overseas countries than it is in Britain, largely because the majority of Council activity and expenditure takes place overseas. This article aims to explain what the Council is and does overseas and how sociologists might become involved in Council programmes outside Britain.

The British Council was established by the British Government in 1934 to promote educational, cultural and technical co-operation between Britain and other countries. The Council is Britain's principal agency for cultural relations and is an integral

part of the UK's overall diplomatic and aid effort. The Council is both a non-departmental public body and a charity. It receives government grant-in-aid equal to 34% of its funds and earns revenue for, amongst other things, teaching English and managing major aid projects overseas for other agencies. The Council's work is designed to establish long-term and world-wide partnerships to improve international understanding. Much of what the Council does involves bringing people together across international boundaries to share skills and experiences, in the expectation that all nations including Britain gain from such exchanges.

The British Council in 1995/6:

- had staff in 228 towns and cities in 109 countries;
- funded over 9,000 scientific visits and supported more than 1,300 research links;
- organised 98 international seminars which attracted over 2,000 participants;
- handled over 30,000 enquiries in the Central Bureau on educational visits and exchanges;
- administered over 400,000 British professional and academic examinations;
- ran 185 library and information centres which had 500,000 members;
- implemented 375 projects on behalf of overseas governments, private sector and bilateral and multilateral agencies;
- ran 95 centres teaching English to 120,000 trainees and students.

### What does the British Council do?

Council strengths are generally considered to be education and training, arts, information and English language but it is difficult to generalise about Council programmes overseas. The activities funded by the Council in one country vary quite widely from those in another because the operating contexts in say, Sudan, Spain and Slovakia are so very different. Priorities for each Council office are decided with local partners within a broad policy framework negotiated at headquarters with the Council's main sponsors (the FCO and Overseas Development Administration) and other UK stakeholders. Council



offices in developing countries, for example, will have programmes supporting British aid policies including a strong commitment to human resource development, skills transfer and strengthening of local institutions. The mix of partners the Council works with overseas also varies between countries. Partners will generally include government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGO's), the private sector and academic institutions but in a particular country, the Council may decide that working with NGO's rather than the government is more likely to lead to sustainable development.

Typical Council activities in education and training overseas include:

- organising seminars within a country or region and international seminars in UK on key topics. Within a country, the Council may bring together representatives from government, the voluntary and other sectors to learn from each others' experiences in a particular field;
- specialist study tours to Britain for overseas decision-makers to institutions and individuals working in a related field;
- supporting joint international research, curriculum development and teaching projects;
- encouraging international educational exchanges through the Central Bureau;
- managing training programmes for governments, funding agencies, institutions and individuals; providing information about developments in Britain and British education through its overseas network;
- in developing countries in particular, funding long-term programmes focusing on human resource development, skills transfer and strengthening of local institutions.

### **Sociology, Social Policy and Social Development**

Joint academic links programmes and exchanges in sociology funded by the Council are more common in Western European countries than elsewhere. In Western Europe, the Council has also funded British sociologists to speak at Council seminars on European social trends. Recently, these have included

seminars on UK trends in ethnicity, migration, multiculturalism, equal opportunities and a seminar in Japan on gender, employment and the family. Typically, speakers recommended by the Council would be academics from teaching and policy research institutes and "practitioners" from the government and voluntary sectors.

Programme priorities for the former Soviet Union, East and Central Europe and middle income countries in Latin America and East Asia differ from those in wealthier countries. With the "economies in transition", social policy issues centred around the restructuring of social welfare systems and labour markets have been the most pressing areas for collaborative work. Academic links between Britain and these countries have covered social planning, the role of NGO's (particularly in previously centrally planned economies where NGO's are a relatively new phenomenon), social research methodology and labour market research. Sociologists have also been involved in Council programmes in middle income countries working on health and legal programmes, for example, with street children and prisoners.

The majority of countries the Council works in are low-income or developing countries. For these countries, the Council is looking more for social development specialists (many of whom started out as sociologists or social anthropologists) than sociologists knowledgeable about Britain. Although aspects of the British experience, such as the establishment of women's refuges, have proved of great interest to particular low-income countries, social structures and political priorities are so different that different skills and experience are needed. The priority in Council programmes in developing countries is to find the most relevant expertise, which may well be in a neighbouring country rather than Britain. The Council also aims to strengthen local capacity by training and using local consultants in its programmes in low-income countries wherever possible.

### **Seeking Council funding for overseas activities**

Generally in the Council, budgets for overseas activities are held by the office in that country and decisions

are made there. Very little operational money is held by departments in headquarters and requests for funding received in the UK will almost certainly be referred to the overseas office concerned. Any specific requests for funding, therefore, should be addressed to the Council director of the country concerned. Contact details for Council overseas offices can be obtained from the Information Centres in Council offices in Manchester and London (Tel: +44 (0)161 957 7755). Council funds in many countries are now very limited as the Council is undergoing major restructuring following 1996/97 budget cuts. Many offices are likely to be prioritising existing programmes rather than funding new activity. It is also worth adding that the Council has an eighteen month planning cycle and funding requests to overseas offices giving short notice may find that Council funds are fully committed.

It is highly unlikely that Council offices will be able to fund the following:

- research by British researchers, whether in the UK overseas, unless as part of a joint project;
- visits by British academics overseas, including conference attendance, unless part of a wider Council programme of activities in the country;
- activities in Britain; activities overseas not requested by a local partner;
- activities in countries in which the Council does not operate.

### **Consultancy work with the British Council**

Sociologists, social policy and social development specialists interested in being considered for short-term consultancies overseas with the Council, should send a curriculum vitae (noting key fields and strengths, nationality and foreign languages spoken) to:

Social Policy Consultant  
Consultancy Group  
British Council  
Medlock Street  
Manchester  
M15 4AA

# Greek Sociology: Does it really exist?

**Alexandros-Andreas Kyrtzis,  
University of Athens.**

Heinz Maus in his *Short History of Sociology*, published forty years ago, dedicates a small paragraph to Greek sociology. He notices in condensed form the important role of theories of social policy and the influence of the 'Kathedersozialisten', and mentions two figures of the interwar period, Professors Panayiotis Kanellopoulos and Avrolelis Eleutheropoulos, the first to occupy the chairs of sociology created around 1930 in the law schools of the Universities of Athens and Thessaloniki. Maus in addition indicates the main contours of their theoretical approaches: Kanellopoulos as a disciple of Georg Simmel and Eleutheropoulos as a opponent of every approach which emphasized collective consciousness. Nothing more than this extremely brief reference to the two German influenced intellectuals appears as a contribution of modern Greece to sociology. Does Greek sociology deserve more? Does it really exist? Is there something going on which could be added to this rather disappointing note?

Although the history of the importation of sociological ideas to Greece during the first half of this century is more interesting than one could assume (it was tightly bound with the emergence of ideologies of modernization and their contradictions), we will focus upon the second half of the century in this article. Concerning the period, one thing is certain: During the last two decades, sociologists in Greece have reached the necessary critical mass to constitute a valid scientific community. Sociologically minded political scientists and social historians, social anthropologists, even some economists and representatives of literary criticism and educational science enlarge the circle of sociological literates. However, despite the fact that there is nowadays a fertile social field for the constitution of sociological discourse, the institutional past has

been extremely adventurous as a consequence of sociopolitical perturbations. Kanellopoulos died in 1986 and Eleutheropoulos in 1955. But long before that, the careers of both of them had been suspended for political reasons. Kanellopoulos taught in Greece for two years (1933-1935) and Eleutheropoulos from 1929 to 1937. After them there were no positions for sociologists in Greek universities for almost forty years, although some law professors, psychologists and philosophers presented fragments of sociological thought to Greek students.

Social science appeared again in higher education only after the abolishment of the dictatorship in 1974. But was ten more years before the first sociology departments in Greek history were founded at the Panteios University of Social Science in Athens and at the University of Crete. Due to the mixed academic backgrounds of those in the Panteios department and the distance of Crete from the Greek mainland, however, the consolidation of Greek sociology has not been centred in these departments. Their graduates find it difficult competing for access to the more interesting sociological jobs with their colleagues who have studied abroad. This is however not all one could say about sociology at the Greek universities. Most Greek sociologists are scattered in a great variety of departments. Many law schools and economics departments have in the last years acquired at least one position for sociology as an integral part of their undergraduate programmes. There are sociologists in the Technical Universities of Athens and Crete, the Schools of Architecture as well as in the Polytechnics, some of which have Departments of Social Work. The Department for Social Policy and Social Anthropology at Panteios University is sociological in spirit. A limited number of sociologists can also be found in medical schools and in management departments. The largest and relatively the most

coherent group are in education departments. The Sociology of Education has become one of the strongest sociological subdisciplines in Greece. This is not only due to the vast interest in educational issues, but also to the fact that senior Greek sociologists like Constantine Tsoukalas and Jane Lambiri-Dimaki have produced major contributions to this field. The second largest group can be found in the politics departments, where the boundaries between political science and political sociology are fuzzy. In addition, the departments of communication founded in the nineties as a consequence of the explosion of electronic mass media in Greece are a favourable working place for social scientists of all possible persuasions.

The fact that sociologists are employed in a variety of departments does not describe a unique Greek phenomenon. Similar situations could be observed in the UK, in the US and Germany, to name but a few countries. However, the inability of the Greek sociological departments to contribute to academic discourse and research networks, creates a problem of having in Greece a sociological web with important knots missing. Transdepartmental informal alliances which also embrace social scientists working outside the university prevail. That means that the true dynamics of contemporary Greek sociology, although carried out to a great extent by sociologists working at a university, must be found elsewhere.

Research interests unite into common networks the second major group of social scientists in Greece, those who are working in research centres, and mainly at the National Centre for Social Research. The importance of this institution is much greater than in countries with a more normal academic history. Although expelled from the universities and experiencing an openly hostile treatment by the academic establishment during the two and a half decades following the civil war (1946-49), sociology found a shelter in the Social Science Centre (as its name was then), founded in 1960 by UNESCO in Athens. The Greek government, although reluctant to do so, finally undertook its funding. The Centre, under the direction of the British educated Cypriot Professor of Sociology and Social Anthropology John Peristiany, succeeded in

establishing collaboration with many well known sociologists and has also been the place where almost all the senior sociologists and other social scientists who occupy important academic and research positions today made their first steps. (Peristiany left the Centre in 1967 when the Colonels came to power.) Many of the social scientists who belong to the founding generation, along with those who studied abroad and returned after the fall of the military regime in 1974, still maintain tight relations with the Centre, which has produced more than a hundred mostly empirical monographs on Greek society, carries out a great number of projects and publishes the Greek Review of Social Research. This image, however, does not imply any exceptional dynamics. Major contributions to sociology are missing, despite the fact that interesting empirical studies, especially on Greek society, have been produced there. The core of NCSR researchers, empirical and ethnocentric in their approach, have not followed new trends in the shaping of the social-scientific community in Greece.

As Lambiri-Dimaki points out in her recently-published essay in *South European Society & Politics* (Vol.1, No.1,1996) (where interesting information on the dominant thematic axes in Greek sociology can be found) younger Greek sociologists are less empiricistic, more theoretically inclined and less ethnocentric. French intellectuals of Greek origin, like Nicos Poulantzas and Cornelius Castoriadis, who gained contact with the Greek public after the abolition of the dictatorship, and Nicos Mouzelis' role as a distinguished scholar at the London School of Economics where many Greek social scientists studied, have both exercised a visible impact on the younger generation. Tsoucalas' contribution to historical sociology has been equally influential. Following the above, we can note a shift from sociodemographic and survey analysis to more synthetic and theoretical works, published either in book form or in established social scientific journals.

To these journals belong besides the Greek Review of Social Research, the Greek Political Science Review, *Axiologica*, specializing in social and political theory, and *Synchrona Themata*, a review hosting scientific contributions along with comments

and lighter essays from representatives of all human sciences (*Synchrona Themata* is participating in a network directed by P. Bourdieu, aiming at the promotion of the exchange and translation of texts on social ideas which appear in European reviews). Furthermore, it is worth mentioning the series of volumes published by institutions such as the Sakis Karagiorgas Foundation and the Society for the Study of the Human Sciences who publish the series *Topica*, which also contains original foreign contributions translated into Greek.

The Greek language, however, is a severe handicap to the development of Greek sociology. Although Greeks are informed about what is being written in English, and also in French and German, their texts, due to the language barrier, stay out of reach of the foreign sociologist. Many of the papers appearing in the major academic languages from younger sociologists who live and work in Greece lack a sharpness of argument and literary style, and are adapted to a great extent to what are perceived as the conventions of refereed journals. There is thus a split. On the one hand there are local discourses which - although inspired by streams of thought emerging in the countries considered as sociological great powers - are taking shape in the Greek context and on the basis of cultural elements imposed by the use of the Greek language. On the other hand there are more ethnocentric works which are at the same time easily accepted by non-Greek sociologists, who consider them as an exposition of exotic sociological images. Thus, local networks are often more internationalized than the transnational ones. This is partly due to the fact that transnational sociological networks themselves tend to be conglomerates of ethnocentrism.

Our initial question was whether Greek sociology really exists. I would say that it does, in a double sense. There is a Greek sociology produced by Greeks who belong to transnational sociological networks. This enables the transmission of ideas and methodological approaches, but at the same time contributes to a segmentation caused by the identity of their sources. This goes hand in hand

with an insistence on ethnocentric problematics, which results in an American, a British, a German, a French etc way of analyzing Greek society. All of these perspectives inevitably rely and promote a synthesis of the dominant sociological approaches: structural-functionalism; historicism; deconstructionalism; several versions of marxism etc. Nevertheless, there are also Greek sociological discourses, which are inspired both by these streams and modern social philosophy, adapted to the local setting of provincialism and of mechanical imitation of foreign styles. Still local discourses do have a dynamic to become the basis for creativity and the international exchange of ideas. Bearing in mind that the Greek language will never gain an international status, it is important for Greek social scientists to create a local/global nexus, in order to transfer the dynamics of their local community to international sociological fora and to integrate into the community of Greek, but not ethnocentric, discourses those foreign colleagues who do not prefer folkloristic and ethnocentric curiosities.

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## Work, Employment and Society

... is one of the two journals of the British Sociological Association. Its title describes the material published in it.

The Editorial Board of the journal recently have taken a decision to accept material written in European languages other than English for provisional consideration in advance of the normal refereeing process. This is to assist those authors who do not want to incur the expense of translating their work before knowing whether they have a reasonable chance of securing publication. Articles which are likely to be considered then can be translated before being subject to the full reviewing process.

Those who wish to submit material for consideration should contact:  
Paul Edwards, Editor  
Work, Employment and Society  
Industrial Relations Research Unit  
University of Warwick  
Coventry  
CV4 7AL United Kingdom  
tel: +44 203 524270  
Fax: +44 203 524184

**EUROPEAN  
CONSORTIUM  
FOR  
SOCIOLOGICAL  
RESEARCH  
(ECSR)  
WORKSHOP**

**BERLIN,  
26-27 AUGUST 1996**

Following the workshop of the European Consortium for Social Research (ECSR) in Oslo, August 1995, a new workshop will be held in Berlin in August 1996, at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development and Education.

The ECSR workshops aim to develop international contact and cooperation between social scientists in the member institutions of the ECSR and other interested academics.

The workshop will be organized as sessions where participants present papers. The suggested topics for this year are as follows:

- Employment and Unemployment. Coordinator: Duncan Gallie, Nuffield College, Oxford;
- Family and Work, Special sessions on part-time work and motherhood in a comparative perspective. Coordinator: Anne Lise Ellingsaeter, Institute for Social Research, Oslo;
- Transition in Eastern Europe. Coordinator: Paul Nieuwebeerta, University of Utrecht

For further information and/or application, contact:

Heike Solga  
Max Planck Institute for Human  
Development and Education  
Lentzealle 94  
D-14195 Berlin  
Germany  
tel: +49 (030) 829 995 383  
Fax: +49 (030) 824 99 39  
e-mail: solga@mpib-berlin.mpg.de

**Conference "Strategy  
and Tactics of Post-  
Socialist Economies  
Reform"**

**October 17-18, 1996,  
Tbilisi, Georgia**

Organizer: Georgian Academy of  
Economic Sciences  
Information: Leo Chikava  
Georgian Academy of Economic  
Sciences  
5, Pushkin Str.  
380007 Tbilisi,  
Georgia  
tel: +99 532-933693  
Fax: +99 532-983195

**36th European  
Congress of Regional  
Science Association**

**August 26-30, 1996,  
Zurich, Switzerland**

**Organizer: Regional  
Science Association**

Topics include:

- Federalism;
- subsidiarity and regions;
- the regional dimension of environmental policies;
- regional and national planning in the new European context;
- European integration and the future of border regions;
- regional labour markets

Language: English

Information:  
Angelo Rossi  
ERSA - Congress 1996  
ORL-Institute  
ETH Hoenggerberg  
CH-8093 Zurich,  
Switzerland  
e-mail:  
ersa96@orl.arch.ethz.ch  
WWW page: http://  
www.orl.arch.ethz.ch/FB  
Oekonomie/congress

**3-6 March 1997  
SoftStat 97: 9th  
Conference on the  
Scientific Use of  
Statistical Software  
Heidelberg, Germany**

Contact:  
ZUMA  
Postfach 122155  
D 68072 Mannheim  
Germany

**10-12 October 1996  
Workshop on  
Strategies for Data  
Analysis  
Augsburg, Germany**

The workshop aims to suggest and assess strategies for data analysis using the study of real datasets, to test out in comparison modern statistical research software and to work out principles for the next generation of statistical software. The workshop will have two main threads: the presentation of current statistical research software by experts (mainly by the authors themselves) and the joint analysis in small groups of previously circulated datasets (provided by the participants themselves).

For further information, see:  
<http://www1.math.uni-augsburg.de/~theus/Workshop/Workshop.html>

or contact:  
Antony Unwin  
Professor of Computer-Oriented  
Statistics and Data Analysis  
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# Introducing the ... EUROPEAN GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF DEVIANCE AND SOCIAL CONTROL

The European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control (EG) held its first conference in Italy in 1973 on the theme Deviance and Social Control in Europe: Scope and Prospects for a Radical Criminology. Since then, an annual conference had been held.

## A Brief History

Several European criminologists decided in the early 1970s to form a break-away European alternative criminology that was neither dominated by American academics nor by conservative, positivistic, or functionalist orientations within criminology and sociology. Radical and alternative criminology had developed during the 1960s, linked with the struggles, for example, of the Norwegian prisoners' movement, the French mental patients' union, the German radical lawyer's group etc. Throughout its history, the European Group has sought to overcome various national, linguistic, class, ethnic, sexual, and gender barriers in an effort to develop a critical, emancipatory, and innovative criminology. One goal of the group has been to highlight social problems in the field of deviance and social control which are under-exposed by so-called 'establishment', 'administrative', or 'governmental' criminology; thus, create a forum not commonly provided at other conferences and an international network for academics, practitioners, and activists working toward social justice. The EG has had varying success in these areas, but continues to place these aspirations high on the agenda at the annual conferences.

The conference themes during the early and mid-1970s reflected and helped legitimate the central concerns of the growing radical, critical, and "new" criminologies: crimes of the powerful, the

relationship between economics and legal control, the demasking of the political nature of criminal law and legal force, the role of prisoners' and patients' movements in penal and psychiatric reform, police violence/repression. Towards the late 1970s, the concept of power and its manifestations were analysed theoretically and identified in special contexts: terrorism and state violence as well as various and fluctuating forms of discipline in our societies (Foucault inspired). Other traditional interests of critical criminology have been treated at later conferences. At the Hamburg conference in 1985 on "the expansion of European prison systems", certain trends were identified: harsher sentences for some groups and for some crimes, longer pre-trial detentions, increased use of life imprisonment, additive sentences for already imprisoned persons, and use of short sentences for increasing numbers of offenders. In many cases, it was shown that women prisoners were affected to an even harsher degree than men. Likewise, trends in criminalisation and decriminalisation were the focus on the Viennese conference in 1987. In 1990 (Haarlem), representatives of many penal reform groups in Europe participated in a panel discussion on setbacks, possible points for international cooperation, and the ramifications for penal reform of the "integration" of Europe.

The history of the European Group can also be highlighted by those conferences where the Group succeeded in closely matching the conference theme to local events in the host country, such as the meeting in the North of Ireland on The Politics of Internal Security which took place during the final phase of the Republican prisoners' hunger strike in protest of the presence of British troops and British policies in Ulster (1981). Another was the meeting in Wales, 1984, where the general theme of The State of information was applied to the expanding use of new technologies to police striking coal miners.

**THE XXIV ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF DEVIANCE AND SOCIAL CONTROL** will be held at

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WALES, BANGOR**

**12-15 SEPTEMBER 1996**

## REGULATING EUROPE: CRIMINOLOGY, CARE AND CONTROL

Major themes:

- the criminological enterprise in Europe
- the new European order
- constructing policies and problems
- institutional violence

Contact person for the conference:

Chris Powell  
School of Sociology & Social Policy  
College Road  
Bangor  
Gwynedd  
North Wales  
LL57 2DG

For more information about the European Group:

Karen Leander  
Stockholms län landsting  
Samhällsmedicinska divisionen  
Socialmedicin Kronan  
Skadepreventive enheten  
Sturegatan 2, 6 tr  
172 83 Sundbyberg  
Sweden

## International Congress EUROGRAD'96 October 21-24, 1996 Munich, Germany

Languages: German, English, Russian

Information:

Natalia Kostyleva, Boris Zhikharevich  
Eurograd Institute  
Izmallovskiy pr., 14  
198052 St. Petersburg, Russia  
tel: +7 812-1126478 or 1671574  
Fax: +7-812-1126506  
e-mail: zhikh@eurograd.spb.su

# ESRC Crime and Social Order Research Programme Conference

## CRIME AND SOCIAL ORDER IN EUROPE:

Political Economy, Transnationality and Community Safety

7-10 SEPTEMBER 1996 UMIST, MANCHESTER

The primary objective of this conference is to encourage awareness and exchange on new issues and concerns in the areas of crime and social order in Europe. Its main themes are likely to include the criminological consequences of economic integration; the implications of the current developments in the European Union for policing, punishment, intelligence, civil liberties and human rights and the impact on the European Union of conflict and change in neighbouring states to the East and South.

A secondary objective is to provide the opportunity for research-active social scientists from different European states to obtain a closer knowledge of current developments in Britain, including (but not confined to) those associated with the ESRC Programme.

The organising committee is also mindful of the newly emerging possibilities for collaborative research in crime and related areas, not least through the European Union's Fourth Framework Programme, the Foreign Office's 'Know-How' Fund and the ESRC's 'Risk' and 'East-West' Initiatives. The conference is intended to provide an opportunity for existing pan-European research partnerships, as well as encouragement to the formation of further such developments.

The working themes of the conference, and the topics we would hope to see covered, include:

### (a) SOCIAL EXCLUSION

- The impact of de-industrialisation and unemployment across Europe, and directly associated patterns of criminality.

- The "gender order" in different European societies and its relation to patterns of sexual crime and private violence.
- European citizenship, guest workers, race, refugees, gypsies and migrants: crimes of racial violence, smuggling of refugees, and other related topics of criminalisation.
- The return of public poverty and the pattern of underclass formation (begging, homelessness etc) and its relation to the construction of European citizenship.
- Circumpolar indigenous peoples in Europe, customary law, alternative concepts and practices of social control, and their exemplary potential at local level.

### (b) TRANSNATIONALITY

- The limits of the nation state and national systems of social control in a European market. The implications of Maastricht in the spheres of transnational corporate and professional crime. Criminological implications of the abolition of border controls within Europe; and the shared frontiers of the Community and Eastern Europe.
- Criminological implications of global communications systems (internet, satellites) for policing. Analysis of the Shengen and Trevi systems of policing of transnational migration of peoples and goods.
- Social scientific evaluations of problems and possibilities in international cooperation between national police forces, national governments and other national institutions.
- Organized crime as a European transnational presence. The international political economy of crime.

### (c) THE DISCIPLINARY CRISIS: MANAGEMENT CRISIS OR LEGITIMATION CRISIS?

- Analysis of the scale and effects of the escalating population in Western and Eastern Europe. Fiscal and legitimisation problems of this disciplinary explosion, and implications for civil society in Europe.
- The state of play in the movement for prison attrition and/or abolition. Critical discussion of alternative

models of accountable systems of punishment.

- Analysis of the pattern and substance of disciplinary discourses at the level of the Community, individual nation-states, and locality in Europe.
- Examination of alternative systems of punishment, correction and re-integration in different European societies (the reconfiguration of Welfare, Law and Justice).

### (d) TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE STATE AND THE MARKET

- The technological revolution, the information superhighway and transformations of crime and policing: jurisdictional implosion and complexity.
- Structures and patterns of the hidden economy of crime across Europe.
- Cross-overs between the hidden economy, the formal economy and the State: the issue of "corruption". Analysis of transformations of citizenship and the welfare state across Europe: criminological implications of the withdrawal of "the safety net" and the rise of individualism.
- The transformation of the labour market, 'jobless growth', unemployment and the rise of new forms of livelihood strategies in Europe.

### (e) COMMUNITY SAFETY

- Theorising crime dangers and risk for the European Community. Critical appraisal of existing European initiatives for the defence and maintenance of personal and community safety.
- Contemporary programmes of social defence and social crime prevention: theoretical and empirical appraisal.
- Male violence as a problem for community.
- Privatization of economies, policing, security and social provision; implications for crime and the public life of the community across Europe.

This is an initiative of a sub-committee of the Crime and Social Order Research Programme of the British Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The initiative was launched with a view to facilitating contacts among European

criminology scholars and practitioners, to establishing research networks, and finally to encouraging interest in respect of a Conference to be held in Manchester on 7-10 September 1996. Details regarding the conference can be found in the back page of this newsletter.

We would like to stress the importance of this networking activity which we hope will result in comparative work, joint-research projects and cross-country funding applications. In this respect, we intend to provide an initial vehicle for European collaboration in the form of a European Handbook of Criminology, which will include some of the more relevant papers delivered at the Manchester conference. Negotiations with a leading international publisher are under way.

Colleagues who would like to attend the conference are invited to contact the conference administrator:

Mr Christopher Loxley  
Department of Sociology  
University of Salford  
Salford M5 4WT  
United Kingdom

#### **ESRC ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL**

The Conference Organising Committee consists of Professor Rod Morgan, Chair (University of Bristol), Mr Keith Hellawell (Chief Constable, West Yorkshire), Dr Tim Hope (ex officio, ESRC Crime and Social Order Research Programme Coordinator, Keele University), Dr Elena Larrauri (Universita Autonoma de Barcelona), Dr Vincenzo Ruggiero (Middlesex University), Professor David Smith (University of Edinburgh), Dr Nigel South (University of Essex), Professor Ian Taylor (University of Salford) and Dr Lucia Zedner (University of Oxford).

Offers of papers, with a 250 word precis, should be sent to the Conference Organiser:

Dr Vincenzo Ruggiero  
Faculty of Social Science  
Middlesex University  
Queenway, Enfield  
Middlesex, EN3 4SF  
England  
Tel: 00 44 181 362 5477  
Fax: 00 44 181 805 0702

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### **Address by Dr. Arpad Göncz, President of the Republic of Hungary to the 2nd European Conference of Sociology**

**Budapest, August 30, 1995**

(continued from page 16)

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Anything you see in this country is at the same time a cause and a result. It is worthwhile to compare it with developed civil societies, where you also find elements of disintegration, even more so because I dare say that today the whole of Europe is sailing in the same boat, the ageing of societies and the decrease of economic competitiveness is the same in all groups of countries, and we can only turn these processes around together. We have to prepare for the fact that in the next ten to twenty years we can pull each other down, or we can lift each other up. We have to prepare for the fact that the illnesses of society move like waves from one side to the other and then back again. We inherit the insecurity of existence from market societies, which we are not accustomed to; you inherit the legacy of a socialism which has exploded and which broke down, the roughness of conflict management, violence, an aggression which in Hungary we traditionally turned against ourselves, as our suicide rates are ever so high, and the violence which we once again turn against ourselves when we try to solve local conflicts through violence as a result of the insecurity of our existence, not to speak about poverty.

At the same time let me say something that might give us reason for hope. The change which took place in the post-communist countries during these five years in totally unparalleled. The world expects these countries to pull themselves out of the swamps by their own hair like Baron von Münchhausen. It is watching eagerly from the outside to see whether or not they are successful. Let me tell you that we are successful to quite a large extent. Life is sometimes stronger than facts, and the instinct for life is stronger than whatever is

trying to suppress it. Hungary has ten million inhabitants, and the number of entrepreneurs today is one million two hundred thousand. Five or six years ago I could have defined this figure as almost zero. Societies in this country as well as in all the other post-communist countries take advantage of the most important legal institution: 'legal vacuum'. This road on which these countries are catching after a delay of about a hundred years in some way or another, is quite unique.

It would be very interesting to listen to all the lectures, since everything has been affected; from sexual practices to religious traditions and changes in agricultural production techniques. God gave you enough intellectual power to put this mosaic together. Maybe those who are watching from outside and from above can see the outline more clearly than those who are living in it, and probably drowning. Try to look under and behind the surfaces of phenomena. And if the scientific nomenclature proves insufficient, and the concepts found to be slipping, consider this as a sign that these societies are living not in a valueless but in an inter-value period. The values learnt and socialised during the last forty or seventy years suddenly became useless and invalid, new values have not taken shape. Yet in society we witness the simultaneous existence of unbehavable solidarity and a tendency for self-assistance, as well as dull individualism leading up to murder.

I ask the organisers of the conference to send me the volume when the lectures are ready. I would have liked to sit here for the whole of the congress, for I am greatly excited by it. I am afraid my obligations will not permit me to do that. So it remains that I will receive the sum of your intellectual work. . .

*(Switches back to English)*

. . . and I will be very-very grateful for it. I wish you all the best here. I would like to say, have a very nice stay here in Budapest. I think that Budapest isn't the ugliest city in the world. I wish you very good meetings, I wish you very good connections, I wish you a great many new friendships, and, as I have said, I wish you'll have a very nice stay here!

*(translated by Zoltán Pogátsa)*

**Address by  
Dr. Arpad Göncz,  
President of the Republic of Hungary  
to the 2nd European Conference of Sociology  
Budapest, August 30, 1995**

*(In English)*

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, my friends,

First, I would like to ask for your pardon because I will not speak in English. The first reason for this is that as a head of state I have an obligation, I have to speak in my mother tongue, the other is that my English is inferior to my Hungarian. I definitely speak much better Hungarian and I am not a professional sociologist, so I am not familiar with your professional language and vocabulary. So it is much better, because I do not want to have inferior feelings, I will speak in Hungarian and I hope that the translation will be much better than my original.

*(In Hungarian)*

I should like to start by saying that I have looked through your programme. You have put together a wonderfully rich programme and a range of topics which deal with both the societies of western countries, and the societies of the post-communist countries. The problems of the embourgeoisied societies of Western Europe are different from the problems of those societies in the East which have only recently become bourgeois, or whose embourgeoisement was broken. The title of this conference "Fusion or fission?" is therefore totally appropriate.

It is my impression that in our societies - and when I speak about our societies, I mean primarily the societies of post communist countries

- disintegration and integration are present simultaneously. In the political, economic and social institutional systems there are old and new elements at the same time, and in certain cases the old and the new exist side by side in the same institution, and neutralise each other. Among us, you are here in a society in transformation. You are studying a process either from the outside, or, if you have come from our world, from the inside - a process which is unfinished in the sociological sense. I think I could describe our situation by telling you that we lack two things. In our recent past, there was a lack of freedom, and our existence today is determined by a lack of security as well as a lack of equality, a value which we missed during the last forty years, but the demand for which, became deeply embedded in the conscience of people.

These post-communist countries have a more or less clear vision of their future, in which they try to form themselves according to what they imagined the western model to be like. On the other hand, they do not have a vision of tomorrow. They do not know if they will still have a job tomorrow, they do not know whether or not they will break away from the main body of society for good, they do not know how long the temporary opportunities of financial improvement will last, what they should do with the wealth thus acquired, whether they should spend it on luxury consumption or invest it. Our conscience is therefore determined by a pair of shortages, opposed to each other, acting in opposite directions, and the ratio of the components of our conscience

changes from moment to moment. The situation of cities is determined by pauperization, and the social situation of people in the villages is determined by the fact that in the last five years a land property reform has been carried out in Hungary which overturned an agricultural system in which private interest and work-intensive small property lived together in peace and in a very fine calibration with large-scale farming which required considerable capital. This property reform, which had been carried out inevitably in a dull way, only took the sacred nature of private property into consideration, but forgot that both soil and the equipment used in cultivating this soil are more than just private property: they are factors of production. As far as the economic sphere is concerned - and here I am compelled to use a Marxist term - it can be said to be in the state of the primary accumulation of capital, and as always, the primary accumulation of capital is to the detriment of the poor. I am compelled to say that when approaching the present situation with sociological methods, one can not really rely on sets of statistical data. In some occasions a case study of a family or an individual reveals much more about this society than the longest and most carefully filtered sets of data.

It is not my intention to destroy your interest in your profession, as I can not imagine a task which is more exciting than examining a changing society through a microscope or with the help of an X-ray machine.

continued on page 15