EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGY: The Next Two Years

As Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann remarked, institutionalization starts when a group needs to devise formal rules for transferring its structure, positions and accumulated knowledge to new members. The European Sociological Association devised the rules giving it its formal life more than two years ago. But maybe the real threshold of institutionalization has been crossed now, with the completion of the first term of office and the transfer of responsibilities to a new Executive Committee (albeit still partly composed of the old crew). The transfer has run rather smoothly, the procedural difficulties have been solved, and the new Executive has constituted itself. New officers are in place, including a new President (made necessary by the fact that our Statutes wisely restrict the presidential tenure to one term).

You will find elsewhere in this Newsletter a report on the election process and its results. You will also find detailed comments on our two main fields of activity during the past term: the Research Networks and the Essex Conference. In addition, we have set up channels of communication with and among members: this Newsletter and the e-mail discussion lists.

I think that by and large, our activity has been successful. After two years of its life, the ESA is now firmly established as an institutional reality. If you feel that we should do more, I have two answers. The first is to invoke a "salvatory clause" (as we say in German): we are a new association, operating in an uncharted field, running on a very tight budget, and depending on the willingness of people to give their time and energy. If you know what it takes to organize a big national congress, you can imagine the challenge of doing it on the European level—with its divergence of interests, its diversity of national cultures and languages (an issue whose contentious nature has been amply brought home to those who follow the European-Sociologist e-mail discussion list), and its technical difficulties of communication. You may doubt the wisdom of some decisions having been taken, or the organizational skills that have been applied, but you should not doubt the sincere effort of the colleagues who have volunteered to do these jobs.

My second answer is Yes, we should and can do more. We need to increase our membership, and to get more support in the parts of Europe where we are still weak, especially in the Romanic countries. We need to develop some more Research Networks in other important areas of the sociological study of Europe. And we need to make the ESA more effective as the intellectual and professional voice of European sociology.

A key project will be our new journal, European Societies. Being part of the membership package, it will commit our Association heavily. The decision to take up this commitment was motivated by the Executive's conviction that European sociology needs and is able to support such a journal. Other journals are too restricted in their substantive focus and/or their methodological approach. The conviction that there is a market for our project is apparently shared by many publishers. Several of them expressed interest, so that we had room for choice and negotiation. There was
less interest in the second part of our part of the overall agreement. At the time of writing this letter, the last details of the agreement are being worked out, so that it can be signed soon.

The next ESA Conference will be held in Amsterdam on 18-21 August 1998. We know that Amsterdam is an attractive venue and can be easily and inexpensively reached from most parts of Europe. And we hope that the general title of the Conference, Will Europe Work?, provides an attractive focus for sociological thinking, in both of its meanings: questioning the future of the European "work societies" and the emerging institutional framework of a European Society.

As to the latter issues, sociology has much to offer in principle but has been hesitant to address them squarely. In this, it has not been alone. Ten years ago, "Europe" was still a very distant phenomenon for most of the inhabitants of the societies of the European Union, or of the geographical space usually called Europe. A number of studies demonstrated this insignificance; e.g., how difficult it was for Brussels-based journalists to get space and visibility in their home newspapers for articles on publishing strategy, the book series, but we have been able to secure it as gender, age, and welfare states. But even here, it has been slow to move to the European level as such. Typically, the first book on how the (western) European societies have moved closer to each other in terms of their social structure was written by a social historian (Hartmut Kaelble) and not by a sociologist.

In other fields, the lack of concerted sociological research is even more obvious:

- in the political economy of Europe (e.g., the uneasy alliance of the Maastricht process with efforts at welfare state retrenchment and redistribution toward the top);
- in the changing European boundaries (e.g., mutual perceptions, exchanges, exclussions and migration);
- or in the emerging cultural unification (e.g., through the media and efforts to construct a European identity).

European sociology has its work cut out here - for the next two years and beyond. The ESA will have an important contribution to make in organizing the discussion and in setting its agenda.  

Martin Kohli  
ESA President
The following short pieces are impressions of the Conference produced by four sociologists at different stages in their careers, writing from different perspectives. The first, by Bart van Steenbergen, the former General Secretary of the ESA, is an overview of the first three ESA conferences. This is followed by an article by J.P. Roos, a new member of the Executive Committee, writing from the viewpoint of a Research Network coordinator. Then we are given the impressions of Henk Kleijer, a research worker in a non-teaching post and finally the experiences of Janet Stamatel, a graduate student.

THE THREE ESA CONFERENCES IN PERSPECTIVE

This contribution will deal with a number of questions regarding the three ESA-conferences that have taken place so far: Vienna in 1992; Budapest in 1995; and Essex in 1997. It is meant as food for thought for the preparation of the next conference in Amsterdam 1999.

The most important questions are: how many people participated in these conferences; what is the trend in this respect, are we growing or shrinking; how many abstracts were sent in; where did the delegates come from inside and outside of Europe; was there an even participation from the different regions; why do registered people not show up; how many people attended the plenary sessions?

Concerning the number of participants I found in my files three types of lists:
- in the case of Essex a pre-conference list of registered participants;
- in all three cases a list of participants handed out during the conference (the official list of delegates);
- in the case of Vienna and Budapest a post-conference list, which is probably the most reliable.

It is also interesting to see how many ‘foreigners’ participated in our conferences, i.e., people who are not from the host country. In particular when a conference takes place in a big city in a small country (Vienna, Budapest and, in the future, Amsterdam), there is a great number of delegates from the host country, who live nearby, ‘come and go’ and often are not full time participants. This probably was the case in Hungary and Vienna, but not in the UK.

With regard to the number of abstracts, I include the papers of the (semi)plenary speakers, although in the case of Budapest they were not in the abstract book.

This leads to the following overview:

In general I see a remarkable stability in the number of participants. At first sight it looks as if there was a strong decline after Budapest, but the number of 990 on the conference list is much too high. That list is probably somewhat comparable with the pre-conference list of Essex. In itself it is noteworthy and somewhat worrying that so many people who intended to come and even registered, in the end did not show up. Is this caused by ‘sloppiness’, lack of commitment or is it more a matter of lack of finances?

Concerning abstracts, at the last two conferences basically all participants have sent in an abstract in order to be allowed to present their paper, whereas in Vienna the great majority came to listen to and discuss with others and not primarily to give a presentation. We seem to deal here with different types of conferences. Vienna was a typical ‘theme-conference’ with only invited speakers, whereas the other two were partly ‘theme-conferences’, partly ‘market-conferences’, where each participant could present his or her own story.

My experience is that this mixture creates problems, since the expectations of the participants on the one hand and of the organizers and conveners on the other are different not to say oppositional.

Distribution over regions and countries

In Budapest it was proudly announced that one third of the participants came from the East, by which was meant the countries of the former Soviet bloc plus Yugoslavia. This was an important accomplishment, since the opening of Central/Eastern Europe after 1990 was one of the motives for the foundation of the ESA.

When we look at the ‘top countries’ there is no doubt that the UK is number one and this country was already high on the list before the Essex conference. Hungary as number 2 is on the decline after the Budapest conference. Germany (3) is very stable, although we might expect some more participants given its size and the density of sociologists there. The Netherlands (4) and the Scandinavian countries (5-8) are doing well and especially Finland (5) should be mentioned here as top scorer. From the Southern European countries only Italy (10) and (given its size) Slovenia (17) are doing reasonably well, the others Spain (19), Greece (20) and Portugal are more

TABLE 1: Number of delegates and abstracts in three ESA conferences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Vienna</th>
<th>Budapest</th>
<th>Essex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-conference list</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference list</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-conference list</td>
<td>665</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excluding host country</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of abstracts</td>
<td>115</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

European Sociologist Number 6 page 3
It means that almost one quarter of the people who registered did not come. This percentage may be even higher when the final post-conference list will be available, if the trend of Vienna and Budapest is continued.

As is to be expected we find great differences here. Some countries came with approximately the number of delegates they had announced beforehand (the 'disciplined' ones), whereas in other cases the discrepancy was more than 50%. Let me give some examples of both types. The number between brackets is the number on the pre-registration list:

Reasonably ‘disciplined’ countries were:
- Belgium 19 (12);
- Germany, 56 (52);
- Sweden 21 (21);
- France, 14 (15);
- Austria, 12 (13);
- Norway, 18 (21); and
- the UK, 141 (163).

On the other side of the continuum we find countries of which only:
- one quarter (Spain, 7 (28);
- one third (Romania, 3 (9), the Baltic Reps., 10 (31), and the USA, 9 (29)); or less than half (Russia 15 (35), Greece, 6 (14), the Czech Republic & Slovakia, 7 (15), and Turkey, 14 (29)) finally made it to Essex, (according to the list of participants).

By using the adjective ‘disciplined’ for the first category the suggestion is made that the second category consists of ‘undisciplined’ people. That is in many cases unfair. The high percentage of not showing up may be caused by sloppiness and lack of commitment as I suggested earlier (in a number of cases like the Netherlands 40 (73) and maybe the USA and Italy, 40 (23) I am inclined to think that that is the case), however in most other cases I think there was a great willingness to come, but that in the end finances were the main obstacle.

To conclude, I am sorry to say that the enthusiastic words of our president in Essex that this one was the biggest ESA-conference ever, are not confirmed by the facts. On the other hand it is also not true that there was a sizeable decline compared to Vienna or Budapest. All three conferences are of comparable size. It seems that the ESA has a rather stable but not very much growing constituency.

There is one more thing that struck and worried me in Essex; the number of participants present at the plenary sessions was low. At the opening plenary there were not more than 300 people (and that was the highest number of all plenary sessions), whereas I counted more than 500 people in Budapest at that occasion. The closing session in Essex was attended only by some 60 people, whereas I counted some 200 people at the Hungarian Forum on the last morning in Budapest and ± 250 at the closing session with Alain Touraine.

Finally a few words about the difference between the number of people on the pre-conference- (835) and on the conference list (615) of the Essex-conference.

TABLE 2: Participants distributed over the different countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Vienna</th>
<th>Budapest</th>
<th>Essex</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.K.</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic &amp; Slovakia</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltic Reps.</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Europe, of which</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ESA'97 - FROM A RESEARCH NETWORK'S VIEWPOINT

The Third Conference on European Sociology took place in a rainy and rather cool Colchester (at least compared to the summer heat in northern Europe, but perhaps not so to the catastrophic rainy conditions in Central Europe), in a campus which reminded me of the glorious 60's. The University had been built then, its expansion and development was already behind as one could see from the dilapidated buildings, a maze of dark corridors and horrid architecture. As somebody told me, only the rabbits are growing freely. Everything else in British higher education is under a lot of constraints.

Whatever one can say about the (in)famous architecture - of the squares and the steps (for instance disabled students and baby carriages did NOT exist in the 60's) - the great advantage of a campus congress is that everything is close and when the labyrinths become a little more comprehensible it is easy to move from one event to another. If somebody is trying to shuttle between different meetings, this is possible; while in some other congresses, once you have chosen one place and find out that it wasn't quite what you wanted, it is impossible to change.

The conference was on the other hand divided into plenaries, semi-plenaries and meet-the-author book presentations, and on the other into thematic group and research network sessions. Of these latter, the first were made to follow the theme of the conference and the second were based largely on the already existing research networks, some of which did not seem to be very active. The plenaries and semi-plenaries were well visited, as was immediately noticeable to the audience, east and Central Europe was left out completely. This would have given more weight to Mayer's hypothesis H2: that the differences between European regions are very pervasive and the pressures for a unified European life course are very weak indeed. The already long list of differences would have grown much more longer.

Meet the Authors - Ken Plummer & Jeff Weeks

As many people noted, the participation to the conference was rather northern centered: the majority of participants came from the UK, northern Europe and the small countries of northwestern Europe. The French, Italians, Spanish, were conspicuously and regrettably missing. Eastern Europeans were more numerous, and Dominique Schnapper whose discussion on nationality would have been interesting to hear. [Professor Schnapper’s absence was due to the serious illness of her mother.] The lecture of Karl Ulrich Mayer was perhaps too filled by complex transparencies which the speaker had not really time to comment, especially as the most tantalizing transparency about new European strategies of the life course was only shown for about two seconds.

Still, Mayer's distinctions were interesting and developed further the classic distinction to four different European grand alternatives. But as was immediately noted from the audience, east and central Europe was left out completely. This would have given more weight to Mayer's hypothesis H2: that the differences between European regions are very pervasive and the pressures for a unified European life course are very weak indeed. The already long list of differences would have grown much more longer.

In comparison, the Plenary on citizenship (Sousal-Melucci) was much less comprehensive. Alberto Melucci started his speech very dramatically on a personal note (dedicating his speech to his recently deceased mother) and emphasized strongly the need to combine personhood and democracy in the development of citizenship. Neither speaker even mentioned the great European divide on citizenship: the principles of blood vs. soil. Yet this principle is still going strong and has not been resolved even inside the European Union.

The last plenary was about Europe in the global and historical context. Maria Mies presented a vast historical perspective claiming that the original patriarchal Europe has been underresearched (and even wondered aloud just why the name 'Europa' had been selected as the name of the continent, its bearer being a young girl who had been abducted and raped), and that the patriarchal Europe was very warlike indeed. Daniel Bertaux discussed the global conspiracy...
against the strong state in Europe and proposed a connection between political and social rights. As there is no need to protect the social property, the political rights may also be denied. Bertaux did not want to present this apocalyptic vision as a conclusion but left it for us all to think about. It is in any case obvious that politics has changed dramatically in Europe; the scope for democratic decisions has narrowed dramatically. The power over economic life has been practically relinquished. Unfortunately, I could not attend Sylvia Walby's Presidential address, but still I would have liked to know in advance what theme she was going to speak about ('presidential address' is not very informative!).

One feature which met with undivided success was the book presentations in which authors of recently published books were allowed to present their creation and discuss them with a commentator. Both events that I attended (the first in the role of a commentator-interpreter) Robert Castel, and Daniel Bertaux-Paul Thompson were extremely lively and interesting, especially if one was familiar with the books. And when Paul Thompson commented that Giddens' 'pure relationship' is a totally unsociological concept, it was interesting to note the very 'anti-Giddens' reaction in the audience! They were also well attended. In the case of Castel, the occasion was even more important because his book is not translated into English. Which is a pity, because Castel's book is a very good and lucid presentation of the development of the social question from a mainly French perspective. It was quite fascinating to compare the present-day attitude towards reconstruction of the 'desaffilies' with the draconian policies in 14th and 15th century England and France.

'My Research Network, 'European perspectives on biographical research' held five full sessions and a sixth with one paper and a well-attended business meeting. It might be mentioned that some of the papers were a continuation of a previous seminar on post-communism and biography that had been held in St Petersburg. This was an undivided advantage - discussion was lively.

The sessions followed a uniform pattern of oral presentations of roughly 10 to 12 minutes plus some 10 minutes discussion. Time was always valuable, but, thanks to the flexible periods after the sessions, we managed to adhere to the timetable relatively well. What was most encouraging, was that the participants discussed eagerly all papers and that the presentations were all really planned to last only 12 minutes (so there were no catastrophic fast reading exercises or forced interruptions, which otherwise are still lamentably common in international congresses). [A report of the activities of this network appears in the Research Network report elsewhere in this newsletter.]

J.P. Roos

Inclusions/Exclusions
Some impressions of the Essex conference

It took a long time before I was sure the conference was really taking place and was included on the conference list as a delegate. Postmodern e-mails and letters via the ordinary postman didn't result in any reaction. Only my creditcard succeeded. I was expected, but I was not sure about the programme we had organised about education. And it was not until I physically showed up and got the conference map I knew for sure the network 'Education in Europe' was in the program despite the fact the network did not exist officially. In the convenor's meeting Professor Kohli stressed this bureaucratic omission.

After the usual formalities - getting the key etc - we went to our guesthouse. The beautiful days at the end of August seemed to soften the concrete construction of the University building complex. After the cuts in expenditure of the 'Thatcher period', the reconstruction activities were visible and above all audible. Strolling towards the student guesthouses it seemed I found myself in the world of Watership Down [Essex has a large colony of rabbits], nice and easy.

Back to reality, the conference started as usual with plenary lectures. However I left them after a quarter of an hour a little bit disappointed. Also, the presidential address could not impress me. Fortunately I choose to attend two semi plenary lectures. John Scott was questioning whether class was really dead or 'just resting' as Monty Python said. He taught me that class situations are crucial for life chances and further that there is a difference between the fact of class and the consciousness of class. In our postmodern world one can speak of the restructuring of class and status towards life styles. However that does not mean that life styles are not classbound.

Then I slipped away to another semi plenary lecture about Simmel. Glad I did. I consequently learned about the methodology of selective imitation based on the work of the French sociologist - he never got a decent job - it was important to stress continuously his main question about the relationship between individual and society. Nedelmann compared this to the relationship between the frame and the painting - what the frame of a painting had to look like in order to make the painting inside the frame a good piece of art. Some sort of mutual dependence. A perfect metaphor used here by Nedelmann. I did not feel sorry for having chosen these semi plenaries over others.

In the 'meet the author' sessions, I met Paul Thompson in the flesh. Long ago have I read his books about oral history. I must admit I like oral history as a method of gathering social data. Thompson is the one who developed a strong tradition in this field. He is very well known as a researcher who along with Bertaux is presenting the tales of ordinary people. The meeting was prepared very well and had an animated discussion about the advantages of oral history as a method in comparison of qualitative research.

What about the streams and the research networks? Well I can be very short. I got lost several times in the 'Building Complex' - never visited by accident the 'Biographical Perspectives on European Societies' in which Bertaux tried to explain to us how he attempts to avoid the problems of the relationship between subject and object by stressing factual events, by locking closely what really happened. The next network I found myself in was on 'Youth and Generations'. There I listened to a sociologist from Portugal doing research about youngsters and their music in a French town. When you want to know something about how youth thinks and feels you have to look to the music they like and use to define their lifeworld. She was not mentioned in the programme. The next presentation was about trades and Mafiosi, in which Ken Roberts compared the practices of young traders in Russia with the practice in

European Sociologist Number 6 page 6
third world countries, concerning the same economic activities. The third presentation was about youth and generations. In my opinion the concept of generations has not been elaborated and is difficult to use as a concept that should explain differences between different age groups. How to identify the boundaries between the age groups, defined as generations?

And finally the network ‘Education in Europe’, the reason why I visited this conference. Three sessions with eleven papers from eight different countries, not bad for a start. The first session started with a contribution from Bosker and Dekkers (The Netherlands) about gender-specific school careers in secondary education, a statistical analysis of gender differences. The results showed that gender differences in education in the Netherlands still exist. I. Jonsson (Sweden) presented a paper about female participation in education in some European countries. She argued that the results have to be considered in relation to the educational level in each country as a whole and to the structure of the educational system. In his paper, J. Lehtonen (Finland) problematized heterosexuality in the school, the existence of the heterosexual gender system in texts used in schools in Finland. The contribution of A. Antikainen was focused on the meaning of education and the learning society in life histories. The data were gathered by means of biographical and thematic interviews. He concluded that social exclusion threatens aged unemployed workers, ethnic minorities, women and young adults. In the second session H. Simola (Finland) studied the relation of citizenship and the examination of behaviour in Finnish elementary and comprehensive schools in historical perspective. P. Littlewood presented a paper about schooling, exclusion and self-exclusion. The results of his research appear to validate both Parkin’s argument about collectivist and individualist exclusionary strategies and Bourdieu’s thesis on exclusion and self-exclusion. In the third session Nicos Gousgounis (Greece) stressed in his paper the meaning of knowledge through various cultural shifts in Greece. He discussed education at the postmodern crossroads by stressing ethics, values, identity formation and alienation. M. Dan and E. Veres analyzed old and new inequalities of the higher education system in Romania and I. Hrubes (Hungary) presented a paper about chances of reformers in Hungarian higher education. Two papers from Austria and the UK were related to educational topics.

For the next conference we hope the (not-yet-official) network ‘Education in Europe’ will be one of the official research networks of the ESA. In other words, we hope when the Call for papers for the next conference is sent around ‘Education in Europe’ will be included in it. We invite colleagues to join us in Amsterdam.

Henk Kleijer
Scientific coordinator, SISWO
Amsterdam

The Graduate Perspective

I am a graduate student in sociology at the University of Chicago, specializing in social change and social problems in post-communist countries. This was the second ESA meeting that I had attended, and the first in which I had presented a paper. As an American doing research on Europe, the ESA meetings are extremely important to my research. They are the best opportunity for me to discuss my research with academics from the region, since foreign participation at the American Sociological Association meetings is limited. In addition, due to the nature of the organization, comparative work is appreciated and encouraged within ESA.

Since I had gone to this ESA meeting shortly after the ASA meeting in Toronto, Canada, I found the differences between the two events quite interesting. The ESA was much smaller both in terms of the number of participants and sessions. This meant that there was a greater opportunity to meet the other participants and attend a larger proportion of the sessions. In addition, the concentration of sessions, living quarters, and social activities around the university (as opposed to a convention center in a large metropolis, such as at ASA) facilitated lively discussions and frequent interactions with colleagues.

In my opinion, there was one serious drawback to the conference. The large number of no-shows was very disappointing. Because of the distance and expense involved in an international conference, it is important to have an accurate idea of what to expect. Last minute changes to the program are inevitable, but the organization and its members should be committed to presenting as accurate a program as possible. Despite this, the conference was highly successful and well worth the transatlantic trip.

Janet Stamatel

The election of the members of the executive committee of European Sociological Association started at the general assembly meeting during the Third European Conference for Sociology on the 28th of August, 1997 in Essex. The mail voting of six weeks was to end on the 9th of October, 1997. The voting time was extended until 25th of October because of problems of getting the list of the paid new members from Essex.

The votes were counted by Ulla Peltola and myself at the Sociology Department, University of Helsinki. The number of checked ballot papers distributed in Essex was 192 and 109 ballots came by mail. The number rose from 250 in 1995 to 301 in 1997. Fourteen ballot papers were rejected because of the number of votes exceeded 10 (8) or they came after the Monday morning of 27th October (6). The number of accepted ballots was thus 289, and the number of accepted votes given 2,296. In addition to the 30 names suggested by the nomination committee, 16 other persons received altogether 26 votes.

The 15 female candidates received 1,179 votes and the 15 male candidates 1,091 votes. Ten women and six men were elected to the executive committee. The geographical distribution is fairly even. The members of the new committee represent different branches of sociology. As the following total list of votes shows, all 30 candidates on the list got a lot of votes. This shows that all the nominated sociologists had good support from among the members. The competition was so fierce that the last name on the list of the new members of the executive committee only became clear first on the last days of the election.

The following 16 persons were elected to the executive committee:
- Alison Woodward, Netherlands 124
- Daniel Bertaux, France 110
- Martin Kohli, Switzerland & Germany 106
- Robert Miller, Northern Ireland 107
- Thomas Boje, Sweden & Denmark 101
- Anluga Leira, Norway 97
- JP Roos, Finland 96
- Max Haller, Austria 98
- Franca Bimbi, Italy 91
- Eva Cyba, Austria 84
- Ulla Bjornberg, Sweden 83
- Mojka Novak, Slovenia 82
- Elena Zdravomyslova, Russia 75
- Maria Adamik, Hungary 73
- Ute Gerhard, Germany 72
- Marlis Buchmann, Switzerland 72
- Ute Gerhard informed the ESA that she cannot take up the position. Thus the next person on the list, Gabriella Lazaridis, United Kingdom & Greece with 69 votes, was elected.

The number of votes for those who were not elected was as follows:
- Jutta Allmendinger 68
- Stina Lyon 68
- Gyorgy Lenguel 67
- Edmund Mokrzycki 67
- Victotia Semenova 62
- Bernard Krutihof 62
- Margarzta Fesara 59
- Talis Tisenkopfs 53
- Bob Stones 52
- Alan Warde 52
- Jean Lagree 42
- Ilja Srubar 40
- Nicos Gourgounis 37
- Ilja Srubar 40
- Mojca Novak 37

The next nomination committee consists of: Imre Kovach, Hungary; Karin Widerberg, Norway; Gabriella Lazaridis, Greece/UK; Eva Cyba, Austria; Martin Kohli, Germany; Franca Bimbi, Italy; Daniel Bertaux, France; Elina Haavio-Mannila (Chairperson); Finland; Stina Lyon, UK. For the next Executive Committee election it is important that people suggest prospective candidates (whom they in some way guess are also willing to stand as candidates) through the national sociological associations and via the nominating committee members.

On behalf of the nomination committee I thank those members of the ESA who participated in the voting process.

Elna Haavio-Mannila
Chairperson of the Nomination Committee

Executive Committee Officers

The first meeting of the new ESA Executive Committee took place at SISWO in Amsterdam on 14-15 November 1997. Following the Statutes, one of the first items of business was the election of officers and the membership of the sub-committees of the Executive. The ESA Officers for 1997-99 are:
- President - Martin Kohli
- General Secretary - Robert Miller
- Treasurer - Thomas Boje
- Vice President (Research Networks) - Marlis Buchmann
- Vice President (Conference) - Mojca Novak

Each was elected unanimously.

The full composition of the ESA sub-committees are:
Research Networks
- Marlis Buchmann (Chair), Franca Bimbi, Daniel Bertaux, Gabriella Lazaridis, Maria-Adamik, Anluga Leira
- Conference Programme
- Mojca Novak (Chair), Allison Woodward, Max Haller, Franca Bimbi, Daniel Bertaux, J.P. Roos, Robert Miller, Martin Kohli, Thomas Boje
- Communications
- Robert Miller (Chair), Daniel Bertaux, Franca Bimbi, Ulla Bjornberg

COMMUNICATING WITH THE ESA

Secretariat
The ESA maintains its Secretariat at SISWO, the Dutch social science support organisation. General enquiries, Membership Applications etc. should go to the Secretariat at the following address:
Secretariat ESA
Bernard Krutihof/Jantine van Gogh
SISWO
Plantage Muidergracht 4
NL-1018 TV Amsterdam
The Netherlands
tel: +31 20 527 0646
Fax: +31 20 622 9430
e-mail: krutihof@siswo.uva.nl
jantine@siswo.uva.nl

Research Networks
Communication with ESA Research Networks should be directly with their Convenors (names and addresses given separately in this newsletter). Queries about starting a new Research Network or general items about Networks should go to the ESA Secretariat or to the Vice President for Research Networks.
The venue for the 4th European Conference of Sociology has been set. The Conference will take place at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam on 18-21 August 1999. The title of the Conference will be 'Will Europe Work?'

The Conference Programme committee has begun its work. The major decisions about the overall organisation of the Conference will be made at a meeting of the ESA Executive Committee in early May 1998. The Programme Committee currently is seeking suggestions or offers about any aspect of the organization of the Conference. These may include:

- suggestions for Plenary and Semi-Plenary speakers;
- proposals for the titles of topic-based working group sessions;
- the names of Convenors for these sessions;
- suggestions or offers for workshops on research or other academic skills;
- suggestions for additional activities such as the popular 'Meet the Author' sessions at the last ESA conference.

The Programme Committee is open to any offers or suggestions about the organization of the Conference. Additionally, if you or a group wish to play an active part in any aspect of the 4th European Conference of Sociology, now is the time to contact the Programme Committee:

4th European Conference of Sociology - Conference Programme
Moja Navak
Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia
Rimska 8
SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
Tel: +386 61 121 27 801
Fax: +386 61 121 27 806
e-mail: mojca.navak@guest.arnes.si
THE ESA JOURNAL AND BOOK SERIES

Negotiations between Routledge and the ESA have now come to a conclusion and an agreement has been made to publish a new sociological journal and book series.

European Societies - the official journal of the ESA
There have been many significant changes recently in Europe. In particular we have seen the breaking down of the wall between East and West, with the development of more marketized and democratic societies in the East. In the West, though considerable disagreement remains about the impact of economic and legal integration on societies, we have seen the development of increased political and economic integration through the European Union. In all of Europe there are major transformations in social relations around gender, ethnicity and class, both independent of and related to these changes.

European Societies, linked to the European Sociological Association and its aims and objectives, will be a high quality academic journal of research on Europe. The journal will publish research on Europe, rather than solely research by Europeans. Europe is intended to be broadly defined, including all regions of the continent - north, south, east, west and central. Work at a European level as well as at a cross-Continental level which is comparative will be particularly welcome. The journal intends to reach into the whole of Europe and not be confined to issues of concern to a limited number of countries. The place of Europe in an international context is another issue of interest. While a focus will be on addressing contemporary issues, articles may do this via historical sociology, sociological theory and methodology where relevant. As well as adopting a cross-Continental perspective, another main focus of the journal will be social theory in across Europe.

Volume 1, No. 1 of European Societies will be published in April 1999. The ESA encourages all European sociologists to send in articles for review and publication in the journal. Articles should go both to the Managing Editor and to the Associate Editor for articles. In addition, books for review, any other material for publication, advertisements, general correspondence etc. should go to the Managing Editor:

Gabriella Lazaridis, Managing Editor, European Societies, Department of Political Science and Social Policy University of Dundee Dundee DD1 1HN Scotland
Tel: +44 1382 344 205 Fax: +44 1382 344 675 E-mail: g.lazaridis@dundee.ac.uk

Jutta Allmendinger, Associate Editor (Articles), European Societies
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Germany
Tel: +49 89 2180-3028 Fax: +49 89 2180 2922 E-mail: allmen@lrz.uni-muenchen.de

The ESA Book Series
The ESA invites proposals for either co-authored books, themed collections or monographs from individual ESA members, the Convenors of working sessions at the ESA Conferences, or ESA Research Network co-ordinators. The ESA hopes to generate about four to five books a year. Proposals for publications in the ESA Book Series must include:

- an introduction describing the theme of the book (7-8 pages);
- an evaluation of the potential audience of the book;
- short abstracts of all contributions/chapters;
- C.V. for the authors or editors (1/2 page);
- short C.V. for all contributors.

Proposals for publications in the ESA Book Series can be sent to:

Thomas P. Boje
Department of Sociology
Umeå University
S - 90185 Umeå
Sweden
Tel: +46 90 786 59 84 Fax: +46 90 786 66 94 E-mail: thomas.boje@soc.umu.se

Decision about acceptance for publication will be made following the advice of referees by the editors of the ESA Book Series (together with the publisher - Routledge).

4th International Conference on
ALTERNATIVE FUTURES AND POPULAR PROTEST
Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, England
16th-17th April 1998

In 1995, 1996, and 1997 Manchester Metropolitan University hosted three successful international conferences on 'Alternative Futures and Popular Protest'. A fourth conference will be held on 15-17 April 1998. The aim of the Conference is to explore the dynamics of popular movements, along with the ideas which animate their leaders and supporters and which contribute to shaping their fate.

Call for Paper
We invite offers of papers from sociologists, political scientists, historians and others, addressing the conference themes and their theorization. Papers should address such matters as:

- contemporary historical social movements and popular protests;
- social movement theory;
- utopias and experiments;
- ideologies of collective action etc.

Those giving papers are asked to supply them in advance, for inclusion in a volume of Proceedings, which will be available from the conference opening. If interested in offering a paper you should contact either of the conference convenors with a brief abstract: Colin Barker, Department of Sociology or Mike Tyldesley, Department of Politics and Philosophy. Both may be reached at: Manchester Metropolitan University Geoffrey Manton Building Rosamond Street West Manchester M15 6LL Tel: Barker, +44 161 247 3439 Tel: M. Tyldesley, +44 161 247 3460 email: c.barker@mmu.ac.uk OR m.tyldesley@mmu.ac.uk Fax: +44 161 247 6321 Final date for receipt of agreed papers: 9 March 1998. The conference convenors will approach publishers to explore the possibility of publishing a selection of the conference papers.
NEW RESEARCH NETWORKS

At its November 1997 meeting in Amsterdam, the Executive Committee formally approved the applications of three new Research Networks:

Globalization
The first meeting of this network took place at the 3rd European Conference of Sociology. Its Coordinator is:

Bart van Steenbergen
Department of General Social Sciences
University of Utrecht
P.O. Box 80.140
3300 AL Utrecht
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 30 253 5472/253 5526
Fax: +31 30 253 4733
e-mail: B.vanSteenbergen@fsw.ru.nl

Social Movements
This network was initiated at the Essex Conference. Its Coordinators are:

Dieter Rucht
Department of Sociology
Darwin College
University of Kent
Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NY
United Kingdom

Mario Diani
Department of Government
University of Strathclyde
16 Richmond Street
Glasgow G1 1XQ
United Kingdom
e-mail: dian@strath.ac.uk

Paul Statham
Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin (WGB)
Reichplechtscher 50
D-10785 Berlin
Fax: +49 30 25 49 16 84

Social Policy
An inaugural meeting of this research network was held at the ESA's 3rd Conference, August 28 1997. Although comparative social policy research is well developed in Europe there is no regular forum for such researchers to meet and exchange ideas. This network aims to fill that gap and provide an inter-disciplinary area for the discussion and development of research on all aspects of social policy and social welfare in Europe. This includes both comparative research within Europe and that focusing on the supra-national and global roles of the EU. It encompasses both theoretical and practice-oriented research. Rather than focusing narrowly on public institutions or social problems, the network favours a broad interdisciplinary definition of social policy which focuses on the rationales behind the development and reproduction of social institutions and groups that influence the distribution of resources, status and power in society and hence individual and social welfare. Our research agenda includes the analysis of such 'policies', public and private, in Europe, and their impact on individual and social welfare as well as the nature of human well-being and democratic citizenship.

Aims of the Network
- to provide a European level forum for the development, discussion and dissemination of research on social policy and social welfare;
- to facilitate comparative social policy research, for example, by creating a data base of European researchers in the field;
- to provide a point of reference for social policy researchers in different academic disciplines and to link with the relevant national professional associations;
- to ensure an institutional context for the operation of workshops at future ESA conferences and for organizing research meetings and conferences between European conferences.

Planned activities
- appointment of national correspondents to link with the relevant academic disciplines and disseminate information about the network (so far there are volunteers from Denmark, the Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the UK);
- creation of a comprehensive data base of European social policy researchers;
- creation of a Web site and an e-mail discussion list (see below);
- organization of sessions at national conferences;
- publication of regular information via the Journal of European Social Policy and national subject newsletters.

Social policy e-mail discussion list
This list has been set up by the network to facilitate interchange on issues of social policy in Europe, including the European Union. It is open to social scientists, including sociologists, lawyers, political scientists, economists, public administration, public policy and social policy specialists and psychologists and others with an interest in policy and policy-making in Europe.

Members may wish to use it to:
- raise issues for discussion;
- seek information from colleagues on social policy developments;
- announce conferences and meetings;
- give notice of publications and research findings;
- request data or advice;
- inform colleagues about new and on-going research projects;
- seek research contacts and partners.

To join, send an email to mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk with an empty subject line, containing the message:

JOIN EUROPEAN-SOCIAL-POLICY
firstname lastname

Example: JOIN EUROPEAN-SOCIAL-POLICY Peter Taylor-Gooby

Coordinator:
Alan Walker
Department of Sociological Studies
University of Sheffield
Sheffield S10 2TU
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 114 276-8565
Fax: +44 114 276-8125
e-mail: alan.walker@sheffield.ac.uk

RESEARCH NETWORK REPORTS

Biographical Perspectives on European Societies
The network held five full sessions and a sixth with one paper and a well-attended business meeting. Some of the papers were continuations from the previous seminar on post-communism and biography that had been held in St
Economic Sociology

The network was established at the Budapest Conference of the ESA in 1995. The aim of the network is to inform European economic sociologists about national traditions, current research, and teaching experiences in the field. A local workshop was organized in Budapest in April 1997 on ‘Changing Elites and Changing Rules of the Game’ and two sessions were held at the Essex Conference. Three co-chairpersons were elected at the Essex Conference: Soren Jagd, Roskilde University, Department of Social Sciences, P.O. Box 260, Roskilde, Denmark (e-mail: jagd@ruc.dk); Vadim Radaev, Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Economics, Nakhimovski Prospekt, 32, Moscow 117 218, Russia (e-mail: radaev@msk.ru); Zoltan Szanto, Budapest University of Economic Sciences, 1039 Budapest, Forgavr 8, Hungary (e-mail: szoc_szanto@pegasus.bke.hu).

The first Portuguese Congress on Economic Sociology will take place 4-6 March 1998 at the SOCIUS Center of Economic and Organizational Sociology, Técnica University, Lisbon. Further information is available at http://www.iseg.ulis.pt/socius/congresso.htm.

Family Sociology


Gender Relations, and the Labour Market and the Welfare State

Coordinators: Eva Cyba Institute for Advanced Studies Stumpergasse 38 A-1060 Wien Austria Tel: +43 1 713 8174 Fax: +43 1 597 0635 e-mail: cyba@ihsv.wsr.ac.at

Thomas P. Boje Department of Sociology Umeå University S-90187 Umeå Sweden Tel: +46 90 786 59 84 Fax: +46 90 786 66 94 E-mail: thomas.boje@soc.umu.se

Social Research is established at the Department of Sociology University of Jyväskylä PO Box 35, 40351 Jyväskylä Finland Tel: +358 09 146 2969 or 050-529 2882 (movable, leave message) e-mail: limonen@dodo.jyu.fi

European Sociologist Number 6 page 12

Petersburg. A book based upon papers presented at the St Petersburg and Essex meetings, Altered Lives and Broken Biographies: Biographical research in eastern Europe, edited by Robin Humphrey and Elena Zdravomyslova, has been put forward for the ESA Book Series.

The business session during the final session elected a new set board of directors of the network and discussed venues for its next meeting.

Coordinator:
J.P. Ross
Department of Social Policy
University of Helsinki
P.O. Box 25
SF-00014 Helsinki
Finland
Fax: +358 0 1917019
e-mail: j.p.ross@helsinki.fi

Sociology of Consumption

The research network will hold a working session at the University of Milano, Italy, 16-17, September 1998. The aims of the conference are to draw attention to:

• both ritual and routine activities in consumption;
• consumption and the reproduction of social order (of the gender class);
• emotional involvement and consumption;
• power and consumption;
• development and progress of consumption sociology

We are expecting especially theoretical papers on routine, ritual and emotional aspects of consumption, but also theoretically informed empirical papers on these and named questions. If we succeed in that, we could possibly prepare a book on these topics.

Abstracts should reach the Sociological Department of Jyväskylä University before 30 March 1997. They should have the following form:

• full title
• full name of author(s) plus institution(s) and country(s);
• 350 words, no more than one page.

Full papers should reach the same address before 31 July 1998.

Coordinator:
Kaj Ilmonen
Department of Sociology
University of Jyväskylä
PO Box 35, 40351 Jyväskylä
Finland
Tel: +358 09 146 2969 or 050-529 2882 (movable, leave message)
e-mail: limonen@dodo.jyu.fi
Industrial Relations, Labour Market Institutions and Employment

A variety of disciplines and perspectives refer to the labour market and to employment. This research network links these subjects with industrial relations, especially with regard to two main issues:

First, industrial relations can be understood as institutions which govern the labour market and employment. While standard economics tends to regard the labour market as a mechanism of pure arm's-length exchange relations, the key assumption of sociology is that the labour market and employment are embedded in social structures; and industrial relations represent a particularly important institutional element of the social structure. In this context, the research network will concentrate on 'labour-market embeddedness', its variations across countries and its changes over time. This includes the question of the effect which industrial relations have on labour market performance and employment structures.

Second, changes in the labour market and employment in turn exert pressures for adjustment on industrial relations institutions. The globalization of markets, European integration and the changing structures in both the labour market and employment pose a serious threat to established industrial relations institutions. The way in which distinct institutions cope with this challenge is another question addressed by this research network.

The more general problems behind the two main issues are whether and how industrial relations - which are still nation-centred - can stand in an economics which has increasingly become both globalized and European. In line with this, special emphasis will be placed on a cross-national perspective.

The network currently includes 27 participants from seventeen countries. Up to now activities have been confined to the exchange of information between participants, dissemination of information about the network and the network sessions at the 1997 ESA conference. It is planned to organize a workshop in 1998 and to intensify communication among participants. Details about these issues were discussed at the network's business meeting at the Essex conference.

YOUTH AND GENERATION

The research network held six working sessions at the Essex Conference with, on average, eighteen participants at a session. The network has approximately sixty enrolled members.

An e-mail discussion list has been created. To join, send to mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk the following message:

join esa-youth yourfirstname yourlastname

Coordinator: Jean-Charles Legree
GRASS-ULISS
59-61 rue Pouchet
75849 Paris cedex 17
France
Tel: +33 1 40 25 12 16
Fax: +33 1 40 25 12 12
E-mail: legree@msh-paris.fr

RESEARCH NETWORK COORDINATOR

The ESA invites applications from groups interested in forming new Research Networks. Queries about starting a new Network, or enquiries about existing Networks or their activities should go to the ESA Vice-President for Research Networks:

Marlis Buchmann
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Rämistrasse 69
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Tel: +41 1 257-2147
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E-mail: buchmann@soziologie.unizh.ch

OR

ETH Zürich
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CH-8092 Zürich
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Fax: +41 1 632-1054

Fax: +44 1509 223944
E-mail: P.Golding@lboro.ac.uk

RENCORE: METHODS FOR COMPARATIVE RESEARCH ON EUROPE

Coordinator:
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Tel: +44 1483 259173
Fax: +44 1483 306260
E-mail: gng@soc.surrey.ac.uk

Fax: +43129128544
E-mail: traxler@soc.bwl.univie.ac.at

Sociology of Mass Media & Communications

The network met at the Colchester conference, where four sessions were held, including a business meeting. The programme was abbreviated due to the unfortunate inability of several paper-givers, especially from eastern Europe, to attend. Nonetheless the sessions were well attended and productive. Nine papers were given by members from seven countries. The network now has about fifty members; a complete list is being submitted to the Executive Committee separately.

At the business meeting the following decisions were agreed:

1. Officers were elected as follows:
   • Chair: Peter Golding (Loughborough, UK)
   • Vice-Chair: Peter Ludes (Siegen, Germany)
   • Newsletter editors: Rossela Savarese (Italy) and George Schuette (Germany)

2. It was decided not to seek to collect dues from members at this stage, although it was suggested that the ESA could be asked whether financial support for networks would be available from the Association's funding (it was later clarified that this was not yet possible).

3. It was decided to organise a newsletter for members, to be distributed electronically.

4. It was agreed to hold a meeting during 1998, date to be finalised. The University of Siegen would act as hosts and provide secretariat support. The focus would be on new technologies, especially multi-media, and their social significance, and also on assessing the distinctive contribution of sociology to media research as an inter-disciplinary field.

Coordinator:
Professor Peter Golding
Head of Department,
Department of Social Sciences
Loughborough University
LE11 3TU
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 1509 223390
New Books from ESA Members


Inspection copies can be ordered from: UK: inspection@marston.co.uk USA: books@blackwellpub.com


Isabella Paoletti, Being an older woman. A study in the social production of identity. January 1998. 104 pp. Orders in Europe should be directed to: The European Group, e-mail: orders@europeangroup.co.uk.


The conference "Non-military Aspects of Security in Southern Europe: Migration, Employment and Labour Market" took place on Santorini Island on 19-21 September 1997 as part of the work of the ESA's Regional Network on Southern European Societies, launched just two years ago. It was coorganised by the Institute of International Economic Relations and Regional Network on Southern European Societies of the ESA. The Organising Committee was comprised of: Prof. Russell King, Department of European Studies, University of Sussex; Dr. Gabriella Lazaridia, Chairperson of Regional Network on Southern European Countries (ESA), University of Dundee; and Dr. Charalambos Tsardanidis, Director of the Institute of International Economic Relations in Athens. It was supported in its efforts to organise the conference by a number of institutions, namely: the NATO Office for Information and Public Affairs; the General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad; the Ministry of the Aegean; the Greek Ministry of Culture; the Manpower Employment Organisation (OAED); and the Hellenic Tourism Organisation (EOT). The result of this support was very evident: the conference venue was a picturesque Greek island giving an opportunity for aesthetic experiences which just added to the intellectual benefits of the conference.

The conference drew a considerable number of scholars from the Mediterranean region, and from outside. Altogether there were 50 participants from 11 countries which made the conference a notable regional event. It was opened with words of welcome on behalf of the organising committee from Dr. Charalambos and with a speech by the Chairperson of the Network, Gabriella Lazaridia, who presented the socio-economic background of present day migration flows into the Mediterranean, and basic practical and research problems related to the phenomenon.

Twenty-eight papers were presented under the following themes:
- Migration as a Security Issue for the Southern European Countries
- the Migration Policy of the EU: Towards a Fortress Europe?
- Policies on Immigration; Migration and the Labour Market
- Gender and Migration
- Illegal Migration; Social Exclusion and Marginalisation
- Refugees and Forced Migration

As a result, the wide range of topics approached included: migration and national and regional security; migration and policy implications for the region and the EU; European migration policy; new immigration movements in the region; the impact of migration on the labour market; the feminisation of migrant labour; and the problem of citizenship rights for refugees and illegal migrants.

Some of the papers had a strong theoretical bias, while others were more empirical which fostered, at some points, fierce discussion. Among the topics which particularly firmed up debates were: the problem of security, its various dimensions and the very meaning of the term; the problem of policy implications for the countries of the region and related issues of social exclusion, citizenship and the freedom of movement; and also the methodology of migration studies, in particular research on clandestine migration. For scholars involved in different subjects that exchange of views gave an excellent opportunity for one to become aware of the complexity and importance of the matters discussed.

On the whole, the conference proved to be a fruitful scientific event. I believe other participants share my opinion that the conference will promote further debates in the field of migration, and will render us sensitive to the multidimensionality of the phenomenon that each of us tackle from our own specific angles. Of no less importance is the fact that it also helped to bring together many scholars involved in studies on migration flows in the Mediterranean.

Kryzstyna Romaniszyn
Jagiellonian University
Krakow, Poland

The European Integration online Papers

About half a year ago, the first interdisciplinary, peer reviewed publication on the World Wide Web in the field of European integration went online. Visit it at the following URL:
http://eipr.or.at/eip

The working paper series is intended to be a multi-disciplinary journal. So far only a few papers analyse the subject from a sociologist's point of view. However, I would like to invite the members of the ESA to have a look at the suite and to consider the EiP as a way of disseminating your research results.

Michael NENTWICH
Austrian Academy of Sciences
GRASS - IRESCO - ULISS
Unité de Liaison Internationale en Sciences Sociales

ULISS (Unité de Liaison Internationale en Sciences Sociales) is an International Link Office in the GRASS, (Groupe de recherche et d'Analyse du Social et des Sociétés), one of the Research Centres which is part of the IRESCO (Institut d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Sociétés Contemporaines), in Paris. The GRASS is a CNRS research unit associated with the University of Paris VIII.

ULISS aims at institutionalising cooperation, collaboration and exchange between European research centres and academic bodies. This institutional linkage will be made with organisations and bodies having an uncontested reputation in the field of expertise of the GRASS: Youth, Family policy, Social Exclusion and Social Policy.

On these grounds the main objective of the ULISS programme is to initiate and sustain within GRASS, the presence of foreign researchers or students, who will take part on an individual or institutional basis, in the research programme and academic seminars developed by the research centre host. It aims at introducing a durable international presence within a French CNRS research team, in order to promote the daily interaction of researchers, teachers and students with various backgrounds and then to invite colleagues, to take into account the European dimension in their own work.

The main target of ULISS is to provide a platform where French researchers and foreign guests will learn to work together and get the measure of their differences, not only linguistic, theoretical or methodological but also in terms of professional culture. Such a daily collaboration on the basis of scientific research and scientific activities which involves researchers from various backgrounds and cultures, is undoubtedly a more secure and efficient means of developing sustainable cooperation, than the usual international symposiums and seminars.

Inviting foreign researchers to stay in GRASS, providing training or opportunities for the development of young researchers are for us the main means for spinning a web and building up a network of individual and institutional partnerships.

Details of implementation.

The ULISS project is a platform allowing GRASS to invite foreign researchers, teachers and PhD students to stay with the research team and take part in research activities.

Geographical / Cultural area

This programme will focus on Europe - including Eastern Europe. This implies comparative research between European individual countries as well as investigations into the Europeanisation process. However, this project cannot be confined to this single geographic area, for two reasons: Firstly, the globalisation process is on the move, at the economic level, obviously, but also at the cultural level. The European countries may be regarded as a world region in interaction and interconnection with what is called the 'world system'. Therefore, when Europe is our focus and our main field of interest, it would be a mistake to deprive ourselves of any opportunity to set up comparisons and/or collaboration with other world regions.

Secondly, in such a project, one should avoid reproducing the mistakes of ethnocentrism at the European level. A great deal of European phenomena can be understood only from an external perspective; numerous processes become clear only through the "change of scenery" which was desired by Georges Balandier as a necessary and fruitful tool of investigation. Therefore, Europe is at the heart of this project. But collaboration will be sought and contacts established with other countries or regions; for example, the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, the University of Seoul in Korea and the University of Mauritius.

Disciplines

Sociological research on the process of European Construction, convergence/divergence of lifestyles, family systems, systems of education, welfare and social protection, values and orientations, etc are greatly in deficit; compared with research in economy, law and political science. Globalisation as well as Europeanisation cannot be understood only from an economic or political perspective. The processes are dependent on social and cultural factors which have to be looked into in order to obtain a complete understanding of the present changes in Western societies. The ULISS project is therefore, resolutely interdisciplinary. But, it will be limited to a few disciplines whose perspectives can be mixed into a common project without too many difficulties. These are: sociology, anthropology, ethnology, social policy sciences; contemporary history and socio-economy.

Institutional network

Six institutions have been contacted across Europe and are part of the project already:

- France - GRASS (CNRS-Paris);
- Finland and Estonia - University of Helsinki;
- Italy - Department of Sociology, University of Milano;
- Portuga - University of Lisboa, ISCTE;
- United Kingdom - University of Glasgow and the Social Statistics Research Unit, City University of London.

Operating ULISS

As already mentioned, the ULISS project aims at ensuring on a daily basis permanent contact between European researchers who share the same interests and are working in the same field of research. ULISS will provide an office and working facilities in order to ensure these contacts and encourage effective collaboration. When the main objective is to learn to work together and overcome cultural, theoretical and professional differences with a mutual respect, the best route to achieve this objective is to develop collaborative undertaking or at least to work and be involved in common empirical investigations. Therefore, the following topics are given to indicate some collaborative research already undertaken or in progress.

Youth and Europe

- Convergence and divergence of the patterns of transition towards adulthood
- Youth socialisation to Europe
- European youth identity
Family policy
- Social reproduction and modes of filiation
- New family patterns
- Circulation of children
Social exclusion, Social Policy
- Labor markets and exclusion
- Security and the welfare state
- Poverty

Contact for ULISS:
Jean Charles LAGREE
GRASS-IRES CO Groupe de Recherche et d'Analyse du Social et de la Sociabilité
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75849 Paris cedex 17
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LAGREE@MSH-PARIS.FR

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY IN COMPARATIVE AND LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS

The European Centre for Analysis in Social Sciences (ECASS) offers you the opportunity to spend extended periods at the University of Essex carrying out research, attending training courses and summer schools, and taking advantages of the facilities and resources available in the social science departments and centres of the University.

ECASS is a large scale facility funded under the Training and Mobility of Researchers programme of the European Union. ECASS carries out and facilitates the empirical study of social and economic change by integrating longitudinal and cross-national European datasets, providing the support services required for their analyses, and acting as the host for major substantive research programmes. ECASS offers access to the facilities and resources of six well-established social science units at the University of Essex, together with the support services required to fully exploit these resources.

In addition to the large collection of over 5,000 significant social indicator datasets held by the national Data Archive, ECASS offers unrivalled and in some cases unique access possibilities to a large collection of national household panel studies (the British, German, Hungarian, Swedish, Belgian among others), to a dataset of comparable social and economic variables created from these panels (the PACO dataset), to the International Time Budget Dataset comprising more than 40 surveys from 20 countries and, in collaborative projects with ECASS members, to the new European Community Household Panel Study.

For more information on the research possibilities at ECASS, consult the home pages of ECASS on the World Wide Web or contact the ECASS office. Applications for the coming year can be made at any time. Grants cover travel, accommodation and subsistence. There are also special bursaries to attend the Essex Summer School.

For more information, contact:
Marcia Taylor
ECASS
University of Essex
Colchester, Essex CO4 3SQ
Tel: +44 1206 873087
Fax: +44 1206 872403
e-mail: ecass@essex.ac.uk
WWW: http://www.irc.essex.ac.uk/ECASS/

Gendering the Millennium Conference,
University of Dundee, Scotland,
11 - 13 September 1998

This conference will provide a forum for the debate on gender transformation in the late modern world. The context of the discussion will be social, cultural and economic changes in family structures, sexualities and divisions of labour. We are seeking to understand the dynamic and often contradictory changes in the balance of gender power in both local and global contexts and in richer and poorer countries in the post-colonial era.

Keynote Speakers include: Haleh Afshar; Bea Campbell; Bob Connell; Joy Kwsiga; Sylvia Walby; Jeff Weeks.

There will be four major streams but other contributions and suggestions are welcomed. Streams and themes within them are:
- Representation, Discourses and Ideologies (convened by Hilla Beloff and Jane Goldman)
- Decendering/Regendering of cultural discourses
- The sexualised body
- The fluidity of gender representation
- Power and Conflict (convened by Brigid Fowler and Lyn Tett)
- Violence - private, public and state
- Patriarchy in crisis?
- Gender and the rise of fundamentalism
- Feminist politics

Materials: Divisions of labour and resources (convened by Gabriella Lazaridis, John Macinnes, Margaret Reid, Fiona Wilson & Anne Wiltz)
- The mediation of gender inequalities: issues of class and race
- Gendered work and gendered time
- Gender and the global economy
- Gender and health

Legitimising and Querying Sexualities (convened by Stevi Jackson and Lynn Jamieson)
- Essentialism, social constructionism and agency in sexual identities
- Power and pleasure
- Challenging heterosexuality and subverting gender

Across all of these themes we will be concerned with continuities and change; generational shifts, the link between the personal and the political.

Abstracts for Papers are invited. These should be between 300 and 500 words and are to be submitted by 31 January 1998. Successful applicants will be informed by 30 March 1998.

Conference Costs
Conference fees £25 per day or £60 for 3 days (2pm Friday to 2pm Sunday)
Accommodation (24 hour rate which includes 3 meals, tea and coffee)
- Standard single room £38.50
- En suite single room £51
- Standard twin room £60
- En suite double room £72
Conference Package (all conference fees, 2 nights accommodation, meals, tea and coffee)
- Standard single room £135
- En suite single room £160
- Standard twin room £118 (per person)
- En suite double room £260 (for two)

Closing Date for reserving accommodation is 31 July 1998.

Please address submissions of outlines for papers, applications for registration and requests for other information to:
Gerda Siann/Johanne Phillips
Institute for Education and Lifelong Learning
University of Dundee
Dundee DD1 4HN, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1382 345033
Fax: +44 (0)1382 221057
e-mail: g.siann@dundee.ac.uk

International Time Budget Dataset comprising more than 40 surveys from 20 countries and, in collaborative projects with ECASS members, to the new European Community Household Panel Study.

For more information on the research possibilities at ECASS, consult the home pages of ECASS on the World Wide Web or contact the ECASS office. Applications for the coming year can be made at any time. Grants cover travel, accommodation and subsistence. There are also special bursaries to attend the Essex Summer School.

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WWW: http://www.irc.essex.ac.uk/ECASS/
Discovering Cultural Diversity

Up until the 1950s, many European countries were considered by scholars to be culturally homogenic. Due to a number of factors, including mass immigration of guest workers, refugees and asylum seekers, as well as the emerging (until then suppressed by the "all-national dominant cultures") ethnic/regional consciousness at home, the situation changed dramatically. This process of emerging cultural diversity in countries where homogeneity was considered to be a "normal" situation has been very painful for both the old (mostly established, "normal" situation has been very painful for both the old (mostly established, regional) and new (mostly immigrant) minorities but also for the dominant groups.

The workshop will focus on these painful cultural and mental transformations, seen both from the "top" and from the "bottom". All scholars who study minority/majority relations or cultural homogeneity/heterogeneity in Europe or elsewhere, are invited to submit one-page abstracts of their papers to:

Janusz Mucha
Department of Sociology
Nicholas Copernicus University
87-100 Torun, Poland
Tel: +48 56 257-77-40 (office)
Fax: +48 56 247-65
email: jmucha@cc.uni.torun.pl

Intercultural Comparisons of Democracy

To what extent do established and young democracies show democratic features and how do they develop? These are the main questions to be discussed within the workshop, "Intercultural Comparisons of Democracy". With the help of certain indicators and principles, comparative research of democracy evaluates the quality of democratic systems of different political cultures and civilizations in a comparative perspective. Those indicators and principles, can they claim a universal validity? Or are the comparative standards themselves based on theoretical conditions, whose validity even varies within western culture itself? How have young democracies developed in recent history (e.g. in Eastern Europe, Southern Europe, Latin America, South Africa, and Asia)? Basic theoretical considerations as well as descriptive methodology, and empirical analysis could be features of possible answers to the various questions of intercultural comparisons of democracies within the workshop.

Those interested in giving a presentation are asked to send an Abstract to:

Susanne and Gert Pickel
Europa-Universität Viadrina
Lehrstuhl für Vergleichende Kultursoziologie
Fakultät Kulturwissenschaften
Postfach 776
D-15207 Frankfurt/Oder
Germany
Tel: +49 335-5534-922
Fax: +49 335-5534-923
e-mail: pickel@euv-frankfurt-o.de

Further information concerning the ISSEI Conference can be obtained from the organisers in Haifa:

Prof. Ezra Talmor
Conference Chair
University of Haifa
Dept. Of Philosophy
Mount Carmel
31905 Haifa Israel
Tel: +972 3-9386445
Fax: +972 3-9042402
email: talmore@post.tau.ac.il

CALL FOR PAPERS

Marriage, Morality and Emotions - Updating Edward Westermarck
Helsinki, Finland, November 19-22, 1998.

An International Symposium organized by The Westermarck Society

The work of the anthropologist, sociologist and philospher Edward Westermarck (1862-1939) has received renewed attention among researchers of sex, the family, morality and social emotions. This symposium provides a forum for papers that further the analysis of these and other Westermarckian themes. Particularly welcome are papers that attempt to update any of Westermarck's central analyses. Papers that deal with the historical context of Westermarck's work are invited as well. In the spirit of Westermarck, the symposium is multidisciplinary. Papers that touch upon two or more of the disciplines of sociology, anthropology, philosophy, psychology and biology are encouraged.

Plenary speakers include: Arthur P. Wolf, Stanford University; Frans de Waal, Emory University; Frank Salt, Human Ethnology; Max Planck Gesellschaft; Andechs, Maurice Bloch, London School of Economics, jointly with Dan Sperber, CNRS, Paris.

Submitted papers are expected to deal with, for instance:
• moral emotions;
• the family, sex and gender;
• psychological and biological aspects of social phenomena.

The number of papers will be limited to about 30. Submissions will be accepted based on quality and relevance to the symposium. Deadline for abstracts is April 15, 1998. Acceptance announcements will be sent by May 30.

The symposium will have two parts. Thursday through Friday noon, public keynote lectures will be held at the historical Assembly House of the Estates (Säätytalo) in the center of Helsinki. Friday afternoon through Sunday noon, submitted papers will be presented and discussed at the Vuoranta Conference Center, 12 kilometers from downtown.

The conference fee is expected to be about FIM 500. A discounted hotel rate for a single room and breakfast in Helsinki for Nov 18-20 is available for FIM 350 per night. A single room, meals (excluding conference dinners), and sauna at the Conference center total to about FIM 1,100 (for the period of Nov 20-22). [Currently, one US dollar is about FIM 5.20.]

Send inquiries to:
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Making sense of the body: theory, research and practice

The Body in Sociology

Despite a notable growth in the development of sociological debates on bodies, sociology as a discipline continues to find its study problematic. The body is central to understanding social action and this conference aims to promote reflection on this topic. We are keen to bring together scholars and work from all areas of the discipline in order to invite theoretical debate, and the development and exchange of empirical work.

A Participative Approach

So as to enhance the level and nature of participation from BSA members, we have adopted what we term a participative approach to the conference organisation. We have actively sought the input of study groups as well as other interested groups and individuals in co-ordinating streams and round table discussions. This participation will continue through the production of the published conference volumes.

Plenary Speakers, Roundtables, and much, much more....

Plenary speakers will include: Bob Connell, University of Sydney, Dorothy Smith, Professor of Sociology at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, and the BSA President, David Morgan, will be giving the Presidential Address.

The conference will be organised around a wide range of themes including: the body & the labour process; legal bodies – the state & citizenship; locating the body – place, space & time; the body & mind – beliefs, practises & religion; the body in science, technology & medicine; researching the body – methodological debates; the body & power – regulation & resistance; the body in disability studies; race, ethnicity & the body; cultural representations of the body; bodies at leisure & in sport; the body in health & illness; sexuality & gendered bodies; the body in sociological theory; and there will be an open stream where papers not on the central theme can be presented.

Other activities co-ordinated at the conference are round tables where key issues can be discussed and debated; professional development workshops; study group meetings; women’s caucus; postgraduate student workshops; publishers’ reception, and of course the Annual General Meeting of the BSA, and assorted entertainments. We welcome other suggestions.

The BSAs WWW page will provide updated information on these developments: http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/britsoe/

Booking forms will be sent to all BSA members but are also available from: 1998 BSA Conference, BSA, Unit 3F/G, Mountjoy Research Centre, Stockton Road, Durham, DH1 3UR, and must be returned by 6 March 1998 (speaker booking deadline: 27 February 1998).

The conference organising team:

Kathryn Backett-Milburn, University of Edinburgh
Sarah Cunningham-Burley, University of Edinburgh
Linda McKie, University of Aberdeen
Nick Watson, University of Edinburgh
APPLICATION FORM

SEND THIS FORM TO:  
EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Jantine van Gogh
SISWO
Plantage Muidergracht 4
NL-1018 TV Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Individual Membership
Ο 2 years / US$ 70 or Dfl. 130,-
Student Discount
Ο 2 years / US$ 15 or Dfl. 30,-

For members from countries with non-convertible currencies (Central and Eastern Europe incl. Turkey)
Individual Membership
Ο 2 years / US$ 15 or Dfl. 30,-
Student Discount
Ο 2 years / US$ 3 or Dfl. 10,-

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Institution

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Country/Postal Code
Telephone
Telefax
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Ο Visa  Ο Mastercard

card number

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Ο enclosing a Eurocheque or money order payable to ESA. No personal cheques (except Euro) can be accepted.
Ο transfer through (name of bank)
to ING Bank, Herengracht 574, 1017 CJ Amsterdam, account number 66.15.27.298 payable to ESA and clearly stating the name of the person(s) involved.
Ο cash, enclosed in an envelope with a letter in which you clearly indicate your name Specially for small membership fee amounts from members from countries with non-convertible currencies.