



Announcing the 7th Conference of the European Sociological Association in Torun, Poland 2005

The Executive Committee of the ESA at the meeting held in Paris, March 28-29, 2003 has accepted the bid submitted by the Institute of Sociology of the Nicholas Copernicus University at Torun, Poland to host the 7th Conference of the European Sociological Association in late summer 2005. The next conference of ESA taking place in Central Europe should attract no less participants than the recent conferences in Helsinki and in Murcia.

The program of this important event in the activities of the ESA will be worked out by the newly elected ESA President, the ESA Executive Committee and the Torun team under the lead of Director of the Institute of Sociology Andrzej Zybertowicz. The discussion of social changes in Europe, where a larger and closer Union takes shape and new visions and projects are even more demanded, will gain vigour when joined by sociologists from various parts of the continent.



Teutonic Knights Castle (photos (C) by Municipal Cooperation of Torun)

The Nicholas Copernicus University is one of the highest ranking among universities in Poland and the biggest one in the northern part of the country. Torun is a picturesque city on the banks of the Vistula river, with a magnificent Old Town including the house of the famous astronomer.

Torun is easily accessible by train or bus. The nearest airports are in Gdansk, Poznan and Warsaw.

More information about the Nicholas Copernicus University and about the Institute of Sociology:

www.uni.torun.pl and
www.soc.uni.torun.pl

Elzbieta Halas

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Why this theme "Rethinking inequalities"?

Göran Therborn begins his new book *Sex and Power* (on the history of family forms 1900-2000) by saying that the family is torn between two concepts: sex and power. The former is biological, the latter is sociological. The family would thus be a concept with one leg in biology and one leg in sociology. This is a useful reminder for those sociologists, who prefer to close their eyes from the biological origins and connections of sociological concepts, but it is also much too simple. Both power and sex are at the same time biological and sociological concepts. This is true for inequality as well. Inequality has a long history (beginning some 10 000 years ago with the development of agriculture and wealth), it has a sexual history, and of course it is related to power. To put it very simply, the origins of inequality lie in sex and in division of labour. Sexual selection creates unequal chances to have offspring and leads to male attempts to control female sexuality, and agriculture made possible accumulation of riches, land ownership etc.

Sociology is notoriously a discipline with recurring themes and problems. There is very little, if any, cumulative theoretical development and we have no well-defined fundamental concepts on which to build. We unfortunately often respect precisely those authors with the fuzziest concepts. Still, there are two basic types of concepts in sociology: those which stay the same, which are discussed anew, and those which pop up from time to time, just to disappear without trace.

The concept of race is an example of a concept which was very much in vogue one hundred years ago,

but has now been banned and replaced by a mix of concepts, such as ethnicity. At present we have many concepts which are already on the way to oblivion: risk society, network society, life politics, liquid love. On the other hand concepts like sex, family, welfare, class, power and inequality will not disappear by will or declaration (in this sense they are truly "zombie" concepts, but on the other hand, I disagree with Ulrich Beck that they would really be irrelevant or outdated).

In the ESA Murcia Congress 2003, the theme "Ageing society, new sociologies" was paraphrased by some as "ageing societies, old sociology" (actually a theme in a recent gerontology congress!) as sociologists looked in vain for traces of new sociologies. But perhaps it is sometimes better not to search for "new" words but settle for that which has permanent value. For instance, in family sociology, revolutions in family forms are trumpeted every ten years. Nevertheless, the family is one of the most permanent, albeit flexible, forms of human society and nothing seems to be able to change this. There are some bio-sociological constants: two sexes instead of ten, human children who need at least 15 years to become independent from their parents (and nowadays even 30 years is not impossible), parental investments that partly differ between the sexes. All this was common knowledge already in the beginning of the 20th century. Edward Westermarck's monumental *History of Human Marriage* (1891) debunked the belief of original promiscuity and explained how such family phenomena as incest aversion and parenthood have evolved.



Rafter's Monument

Unfortunately, nowadays this knowledge is not in the main sociological realm. What has actually happened is that important sociological themes have transcended the borders of sociology. We may still have good empirical research but the theory is often irrelevant, especially that part which starts from an assumption of permanent change. The paradox of biology vs. sociology is that the more wealthy, equal and democratic a society is, the more important become the biological factors, when the social and political constraints become less important.

In my view, sociologists would do well to revisit the origins of our classic concepts and study the extrasociological as well as classical (i.e. pre-durkheimian) sociological knowledge. So, rethinking inequality means that we will have to return to the roots of inequality, both in a biological and sociological sense. Only in this way can we try to advance the state of cumulative knowledge in sociology and save sociology from its fashionable irrelevance.

Welcome to Torun!
J P Roos
President of the ESA

Interviews

European Sociologist presents the answers of its inquiry into the views and attitudes of the new members of the Executive Committee

Catherine Delcroix

1. Why did you decide to become a sociologist?

First trained as a political scientist, during my fieldwork I became soon a sociologist. From the beginning, as a researcher, I wanted to understand how societies "work", to discover how people do live in different "milieux sociaux" and to find with them how to deal with social problems. Concepts to me are tools to let people build new ways for a better life.

I started my sociological work in the Arab world; and I have been ever since trying to make visible the "common humanity" linking cultures to each other, rather than focussing on their differences.

To construct knowledge about society with the persons one is interviewing, it is essential not to consider them as below oneself in any sense. As a sociologist, I believe it is also very important to contextualize (in terms of history,

law, politics...) to be aware of the context in which people have to live and to act.

2. Why do you think the European Sociological Association is an important endeavour and what do you think the ESA should be trying to achieve?

Among other functions, ESA can help young sociologists to understand the crucial role sociology can play in our changing world. By giving possibility to exchange research experiences and conceptual work, the ESA can participate actively in the building of Europe and a world which will be less unequal and more democratic.

3. How do you personally hope to contribute to achieving these things?

I will help ESA pass on to sociologists, the value of their discipline in this changing world.

4. As a sociologist, which of your publications or research projects are you proudest of, and why?

I am proud of my work in biographical research and especially of my fieldwork with members of poor families in France and in other European countries (Finland, Sweden, Portugal, Great-Britain, Ireland and Italy) coping with precarious conditions.

I am aware of the importance of social policies on everyday life. An European, comparative perspective is essential because best practises (in social policies) can help people to help themselves when in difficult situations.

5. Can you name one or two books that are, in our opinion, models of sociology at its best (and perhaps, briefly explain why)?

I like two books: "Sanchez children" from Oscar Lewis and "La metamorphose de la question sociale" from Robert Castel.

These books are really important to understand people coping with poverty and to discover their context of life (in historical, economic and social terms).

ESA Research Networks

Report of the 3rd Interim Meeting of the Sociology of Professions Network on "Professions, Social Inclusion and Citizenship"

15-17 April 2004, University of Lincoln, UK

The European Sociological Association symposium on "Professions, Social Inclusion and Citizenship" was organised and hosted by Mike Saks at the University of Lincoln in the United Kingdom. The symposium contributed substantially to the discussion of current key societal issues - with the growing unification of European nations reinforcing the significance of the themes of social inclusion and citizenship. These themes, in turn, enabled new challenges for professions and professionalism to be addressed, posing the question of whether radical changes are necessary in the structure and orientation of professional work and institutions.

The symposium highlighted the linkages between social policy, societal demands and transformations in the professions. In so doing, the papers were based on a

number of different theoretical approaches and a wide range of professional work - from the medical profession and the military to teachers and developing professional groups in health care and social work.

The symposium covered multiple dimensions of exclusion and inclusion - such as class, gender and ethnicity - as well as different actors and fields of action.

New approaches and empirical data allowed for more precise analysis of complex and often contradictory developments in this field, and pointed to new areas for research in the sociology of professions. The development of a collaborative European research bid on professions, social inclusion and citizenship was also considered at the symposium.

Some forty delegates from nine different countries contributed to the symposium, at which twenty-eight papers were given. The richness and vibrancy of the discussions reinforced ties between international researchers and furthered the ideas of the network. A more detailed report will be given in the next Newsletter of the Network on Professions that will be distributed electronically in August.

(<http://www.valt.helsinki.fi/esa/profe.htm>)

Mike Saks,
University of Lincoln, June 2004

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Developing a Research Network: The case of RN "Qualitative Methods"

ESA provides an ideal platform to connect people, interests and schools in a certain research area or methodology on a European scale. The RN "Qualitative Methods" has been quite a success story in recent years and it may be worthwhile to share some of our experiences.

After its foundation in 1999 (Chairs: Giampietro Gobo and Ros Edwards) the first initiative was to make the new RN known by setting up a homepage within the E S A - w e b s i t e (www.valt.helsinki.fi/esa/qual.htm) and collect e-mail addresses of qualitative researchers. Diverse thematic groups were designated for which we gradually found colleagues to nurture and develop. At the 2001 ESA-Conference in Helsinki we had a program with four sessions and 15 presentations. Two years later, at the 2003 Conference in Murcia, we had a program with several parallel tracks, 13 sessions and nearly 60 presentations. Many participants told us that our sessions were of high scientific quality and were among the best of the conference.

In my view, several initiatives helped to pave the way to this success. First, we tried to link our activities with those of other colleagues in the field. From the outset, we had contacts with the RN "Biographical Perspectives on European Societies." And we developed a close cooperation with the RN "Sociology of Art" (Chair: Anna Lisa Tota) where quite a number of researchers employ qualitative methods.

The results of this cooperation can be seen in: the participation of this RN at our mid-term conference, our common suggestion to invite Howard Becker to the Congress in

Murcia, and a joint-session of both RNs at Murcia. In addition, we were also present at the World-Congress of Sociology 2002 in Brisbane, where we organized a joint session with the ISA-Research Committee 33 "Logic and Methodology." All these institutional links proved to be very fruitful.

A big success was our mid-term conference on "ethnographic organizational studies" at the University of St Gallen in Switzerland. Instead of having a mid-term conference on qualitative methods, in general, we decided to focus on one particular thematic field and set a particular focus within this field: ethnographic organizational studies - which is a hot and growing topic.

The conference was a great success: Nearly 60 researchers came to St Gallen from many European countries - Austria, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland - but also from other parts of the world: from Israel, Canada, the United States, and even from Australia. We invited four prominent keynote speakers - Paul Atkinson (Cardiff University), Gary Alan Fine (Northwestern University), Jaber Gubrium (University of Missouri) and David Silverman (Goldsmith College) - who introduced each half day with a fundamental contribution, and 24 more researchers presented their work-in-

progress. This conference showed that there is much ethnographic research going on in organizations, but there is still a lot to do in this field - theoretically, methodically, and conceptually (cf. the conference report by Max M. Bergmann (Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung, Volume 4, No. 1, January 2003, www.qualitative-research.net/fqs).

Our mid-term conference was a big step in developing our RN and in making it known to researchers world-wide. However, it also revealed a structural weakness of ESA, which we should tackle in the near future: ESA was only able to support us with 500 Euros, which covered about 5% of our costs. The organization of the conference was only possible by substantial contributions of the University of St Gallen, the Swiss Academy for Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Swiss Sociological Association.

Furthermore, the experiences in the past years also showed that ESA-RNs are fairly autonomous units. In the future, ESA should give some consideration to how its RNs can get a stronger structural position within its organization. It would be particularly fitting that ISA stand as a model in this respect.

Thomas S. Eberle

Chair RN Qualitative Methods 2001-2003
University of St Gallen, Switzerland

News for Research Networks

1. New Research Networks:

Society and Sports

Coordinator: Paul Martin

Email: Martinp@edgehill.ac.uk

Sociology of Sexuality Research

Coordinator: John Vincke

Email: John.Vincke@rug.ac.be

Sociology of Emotion

Coordinator: Jack Barbelet

Email: jmb34@leicester.ac.uk

2. Guidelines:

We will develop guidelines for running a research network. They will be discussed at the next executive meeting in October.

3. "Rethinking Inequalities":

RNs are invited to actively engage in preparing the next ESA conference in Torun, Poland, September 09-12, 2005, "Rethinking Inequalities".

4. "Teaching Sociology with a European perspective":

ESA wants to collect syllabi on "Sociological Issues - taught with a European perspective". Please ask your members to send respective syllabi to us - we will decide upon publishing such syllabi on the ESA web-site.

5. News and Updates:

Please, do not hesitate to inform us about ongoing activities, changes etc.

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Sara Arber (co-chair)

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Conferences and Call for Papers

International Conference - Economic Sociology: Problems and Prospects

University Campus, University of Crete,
Rethymno, Crete, Greece
08-10 September 2004

The New Economic Sociology has come of age and this calls for a reflexive examination of its course, achievements and weaknesses, current position and future prospects.

This process of rethinking, of assessment and orientation has already begun and we do have some very useful insights as is the case with Mark Granovetter's paper on "A Theoretical Agenda for Economic Sociology", Richard Swedberg's Principles of Economic Sociology and the contributions of several other colleagues. In this coming conference the aim is to make an attempt to go a step further in the discussion of an agenda for economic sociology. In addition, of course, to present aspect of work done in the various economic sociology fields. Accordingly, the aim is to attract papers reporting on recent empirical research, theoretical contributions and of course good combinations of the two. The dimension of embeddedness - what exactly it means, implies and includes - should attract papers, alongside the analysis of markets, of cultural forms impinging on economic activities, of the role, work and impact of classical and less classical sociologists on economic sociology, on the relationship of interest, trust, law and contract to economic life.

The economic sociology of globalization, is a topic and area in which contributions are also welcomed, while micro- as well as meso-level exploration are very welcomed too. This is also true about the field of the economic sociology of European construction, the transition to capitalism of the ex-state socialist countries and the ever-pressing issues related to underdevelopment. The relations of economic sociology to other branches of sociology and other disciplines are also an area to be looked into. Therefore, this is an open call to economic sociology. In particular, papers may address any of the following general **themes**:

- economic sociology and sociological theory
- European economic sociological theory - old and new
- the economic sociology of European construction
- the economic sociology of really existing

- capitalisms
- economic sociology and economic institutions
- open theme

Plenary Speakers:

Prof. Mark Granovetter, Prof. Nicos Mouzelis, Prof. Richard Swedberg, Prof. Carlo Trigilia (not confirmed yet).

Deadlines:

30th May 2004 is the deadline for submitting paper proposals. Please include a paper title, 250-300 word abstract, author's name, institutional affiliation, mailing and email addresses. Email abstracts and your particulars to: skoni@social.soc.uoc.gr

All proposers will be notified by e-mail whether their abstracts have been accepted for oral presentation by 10 June 2004. Once an abstract has been approved paper-givers should proceed to produce a draft paper.

Please note that complete papers should be received electronically by 1st September 2004 at the latest. Please send your papers as "Word" attachments to: skoni@social.soc.uoc.gr

Publication:

It is anticipated that a volume of selected conference papers will be published. Participants are asked to give us priority in the publication of their papers presented in the conference.

Organisation:

Economic Sociology Research Network of the European Sociological Association:
Sokratis Koniordos and Søren Jagd (co-chairs);
and Dept. of Sociology, University of Crete
Local Organizing Committee:
Sokratis Koniordos, Andreas Moschonas,
Minas Samatas, Stella Zambouloukou

Registration fee, hotel and travel info:

There is no registration fee. Colleagues interested in participating will receive information about hotels in Rethymno, Crete and travelling within Greece.

Conference Contact Address:

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The State of the Art of Qualitative Social Research in Europe

Technical University of Berlin,
09-10 September 2004

Qualitative methods have been a constitutive part of empirical social research from its earliest days. But for a long period of time qualitative methods have also been regarded as an artwork rather than a scientific way of doing sociology. In recent times however, these methods have become more and more accepted. For instance, the German Society of Sociology (DGS) just decided to include them into the curriculum for Empirical Social Research on equal terms with methods. Qualitative methods today provide major instruments for social research on the level of fundamental scientific questions, as well as in the applied social research. Ranging from the EU to governmental institutions, national and international scientific corporations and private companies as well, qualitative methods are now accepted as useful tools to observe, study, analyse and change social reality on a micro, medium and macro level. This rise of qualitative methodology is due to its ability to address new and ignored fields of the social worlds. Furthermore qualitative methods are able to grasp the rapid changes in modern society and, sensitively adapt to the demands and needs of the subjects investigated by developing innovative and sensible methodologies. One can, however, not ignore the problems linked to this kind of research, too.

Particularly the lack of quality standards and the huge variety of methodologies employed should concern qualitative researchers seriously. And the problem is engrossed by the fact that there are still variations and further innovations in various societies, particularly in Europe where strong linguistic and national traditions still nourish special forms of qualitative research often to be unknown to fellow researchers in other countries and societies.

Given this set-up we organize a workshop on the State of the Art of Qualitative Methods in Europe. Presentations for the Workshop should either

- (a) sketch particular methods or varieties of methods developed or adapted in any of the European Countries which are used by a number of researchers;

Continued on next page...

(b) attempt to portray (at least parts of) the "scene" of qualitative research in any one of the European societies. Exemplary case studies are welcome too as long as they serve to illustrate a particular method, or

(c) delineate the variations of one method across various national scientific cultures. In a way, we intend to initiate something like a "cartography of qualitative methods in Europe".

The Workshop is organized by the "Research Network on Qualitative Methods of the European Sociological Association" (ESA) in cooperation with the "Sektion Qualitative Methoden" of the German Sociological Association (DGS) and the Research Committee "Interpretive Social Research" of the Swiss Sociological Association (SGS).

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Interim meeting of the International Sociological Association Research Committee 15 ES Conference 2004

Sociology of Health and Illness

University of York,
16-18 September 2004

Hosted by the British Sociological Association Medical Sociology Group (Annual conference)

Plenary Speakers will be:

Peter Conrad,
Harry Coplan Professor of Social Sciences
Brandeis University who will speak on:
'The Shifting Engines of Medicalization'

Judith Green,
Senior Lecturer in Sociology
London School of Hygiene and Tropical
Medicine who will speak on:
'Professions and Community'

Information and details available from:
http://www.britisoc.co.uk/bsaweb.php?area=item2&link_id=59

European Society or European Societies?

EuroConference on the Causes and Consequences of Low Education in Contemporary Europe

Granada, Spain,
18-23 September 2004

Supported by the European Commission,
Research DG, Human Potential
Programme, High-Level Scientific
Conferences
(Contract No: HPCF-CT-2002-00412)

Scope of the conference:

The two main questions addressed by the conference will be: (1) why do some people leave school without certificates or with low credentials only? (2) what are the long-term consequences of having low education in terms of careers, economic precariousness, social exclusion and family formation? The conference will focus on answering these questions with a view to examining how the disadvantages of low educated people cumulate over their life course.

It aims at bringing together researchers from different disciplines. The cutting edge of research and scientific discussion on low educational qualifications is interdisciplinary in nature, connecting theoretical ideas of economics, sociology, economics and political science. The goal is to provide a more comprehensive picture of low educated persons and their life courses and of social integration, as well as to better understand individuals' pathways into low educational qualifications and the impact of various institutional solutions to combat their deprived employment and life chances.

The conference is open to researchers world-wide, whether from industry or academia. Participation will be limited to 100.

The emphasis will be on discussion about new developments. The conference fee covers registration as well as full board and lodging. Grants will be available, in particular for nationals under 35 from EU or Associated States.

Chair: Paul De Graaf (NL, University of Nijmegen, NL)

Vice-Chair: Marlis Buchmann (CH, University of Zurich, CH)

Co-Chair: Heike Solga (D, Max Planck Institute for Human Development, D)

Speakers will provisionally include:

Paolo Barbieri (Milan, I), Janne Jonsson (Stockholm, S), Serge Paugam (Malakoff, F), Erzsébet Bukodi (Budapest, HU), Matthijs Kalmijn (Tilburg, NL), Péter Róbert (Budapest, HU), Paul De Graaf (Nijmegen, NL), Tomas Korpi (Stockholm, S), Yossi

Shavit (Tel Aviv, IL), Jaap Dronkers (S. Domenico di Fiesole, I), Richard Layte (Dublin, IRL), Roxane Silberman (Paris, F), Maurice Gesthuizen (Nijmegen, NL), Bogdan Mach (Warsaw, PL), Heike Solga (Berlin, D), Anthony Heath (Oxford, UK), Frances McGinnity (Berlin, D), Wout C. Ultee (Nijmegen, NL), Yvette Grelet (Caen, F), Walter Müller (Mannheim, D), Christopher Whelan (Dublin, IRL), Johannes Huinink (Bremen, D), Stephen Nickell (London, UK), Maarten Wolbers (Maastricht, NL)

Deadline for applications:
10 June 2004

**Scientific Programme and on-line
Application at:**

<http://www.esf.org/euresco/04/sc04026>

**For printed copies, contact the
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The Art of Comparison

**6th Conference
ESA Research Network for the
Sociology of the Arts
Rotterdam, The Netherlands
3-5 November 2004**

The Department for the Study of the Arts and Culture will host the conference on the occasion of its 15th anniversary.

The conference programme features keynote lectures, plenary discussions, paper sessions, and workshops. The theme of the conference, "The Art of Comparison", is an invitation to assess critically how the social study of the arts might be advanced through various forms of comparative research (over-time, cross-national, between different art forms, across cultural domains) and how sociologists of the arts might take advantage of approaches and insights developed outside of their own discipline, for example, within the fields of cultural economics, art history, or media and communication research.

The organizers look forward to seeing proposals for conference papers or for a workshop (e.g. around one or more recently published books, a particular research theme or approach).

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Topics are invited in the following and related fields:

- Art and everyday life
- Production of culture: networks, art worlds, cultural industries
- Artistic professions, practices and careers
- Distribution of high and popular art forms
- Public, non-profit and for-profit futures of the arts
- (New) technology, (new) media and the arts
- Change and continuity in the arts and cultural industries
- Cultural globalisation and the arts
- Cultural policy and national cultures
- The arts and the city
- Arts audiences, tastes and lifestyles
- Consumer society, culture and the arts
- The body and/in the arts
- Social uses of the arts
- Gender, race, ethnicity and the arts
- Art, cultural heritage and collective memory
- Mediating the arts: arts education, criticism and arts journalism
- Role and performance of arts organizations and cultural institutions
- Cross-national studies of art worlds and cultural fields
- Comparative methodology
- Theoretical and methodological issues in the sociology of the arts and culture

Information updates will be regularly posted on the website of the ESA Research Network for the Sociology of the Arts: <http://www.esa-arts.net>

For more information about the conference, please contact the current chair of the Network:

Susanne Janssen (Erasmus University Rotterdam): s.janssen@fhk.eur.nl

International Conference "Gender and Activism"

XII Congress of the Polish Sociological Association

University of Lausanne, Switzerland
26-27 November 2004

Organisation:

International conference organised by CRAPUL (Research Centre on Political Action, University of Lausanne) and LIEGE (Cross-University Centre on Gender Studies, University of Lausanne).

Call for Papers:

This conference is the collaborative outcome of two groups of researchers wishing to develop a joint analysis against the backdrop of their individual research orientations: CRAPUL (Research Centre on Political Action, University of Lausanne), which focuses on research on collective action, activism and social movements, and LIEGE (Cross-University Centre on Gender Studies, University of Lausanne), which is a Swiss information network on gender and gender equality issues. The aim is, of course, not simply to

juxtapose different approaches to a research topic (activism) but to cross-fertilise perspectives. More precisely, the aim is to develop a dialogue: firstly, to examine political activism from a gender perspective; secondly, to examine the constitution of gender from the perspective of activism. Gender will be conceptualised as a social institution which divides humanity into the two sexes, attributes different and hierarchised functions to these, institutes heterosexuality as a dominant norm and legitimises male domination.

Against this backdrop, this Call for Papers will privilege propositions that focus on the combination of these research perspectives, and which highlight the relevancy and innovative potential of doing so. The aim is to analyse activism from the perspective of social relations of gender. So far, gender has been little explored in previous literature on collective action and social movements. It is often ignored, or hidden: movements are treated as 'gender-neutral', in other words, as indifferent to the ways in which they are structured by gender relations.

However, gender constitutes an important dimension of activist practices, since it affects activists' membership and membership modes, the ways in which movements are organised and function, as well as the content (discourses, claims, agendas) of collective action. Related, we also aim to analyse the role of activist practices in the (re-)production of social relations around gender. The focus is here on the ways in which male domination demonstrates its central importance in structuring the social world. In particular, attention will be given to the ways in which gender hierarchies and inequalities condition collective actions; to the ways in which they appear also within protest movements linked to subordinated areas of society; and finally to the ways in which these movements, which may incarnate social critique or egalitarian claims, incorporate gender issues within their practices as well as discourses.

Two Central Themes

The research perspectives mentioned above will be organised around two main themes, which are independent but intertwined. The first central theme concerns the specificity of activist trajectories across gender (membership issues, degree of activism and exit), in other words, regarding social relations around gender on the one hand, regarding heteronormativity on the other hand. The importance of gender will be explored in different areas: Firstly, the gendered construction and mobilisation of systems of disposition, which contribute to determine forms of socialisation, role expectations, and perceptions of reality and of politics. Secondly, the gendered construction and modes of functioning of relationship networks, which act as instances of socialisation and conversion regarding activism, through the provision of frames of interpretation of the world, but also as producers of opportunities of mobilisation.

At this level, can we observe any gender differences regarding: (1) various life-spheres (work, family, social life, etc.); (2) the distinction between public and private spheres; perceptions of time resources (raising issues of role conflicts and re-negotiations of identities); (3) relations of power and domination within the organisation and modes of functioning of these relational networks; (4) the economy of affection; in other words, the ways in which relations of friendship, love or hate contribute to divide or to bring together individuals within or outside of activist groups?

Thirdly, can we observe gender differences in (material or symbolic) rewards attached to activist roles and status, given that these rewards also include a subjective dimension and that they can both be expected before, pursued after, discovered during or produced by activist experiences? Issues can be raised concerning differentiated appreciation of certain types of rewards, and about the modes of conversion of resources acquired through activism (in particular in the work sphere). Particular attention will also be paid to the specificity of activist identities, given that anti-hegemonic struggles sometimes aim to produce positive identities and visibility based on a gendered definition of identity (feminist movements, homosexual and lesbian movements, etc.). Fourthly, how does detailed observation of the modes of functioning of

activist groups, especially of their practices (division of labour, status differences, recognition or evaluation of skills, etc.) contribute to the analysis of expectations from the organisations towards members? The particular focus will be here on the effects that the groups themselves have on activists (selection, exclusion, identity transformation, etc.), based on an examination of the mechanisms through which the groups implicitly or explicitly produce and reproduce gender relations. The second central theme focuses on the ways in which gender emerges as an issue in the context of activist thought and action. How do situations, behaviours, or social relations come to be identified as problematic from the point of view of gender?

Feminist movements on the one hand, gays and lesbians on the other, formulate their activism by definition in these terms, putting gender forward in their problem-definitions. However, their respective definitions of the sex/gender system remain at times incomplete: the former at times hesitate to subscribe to gay demands, whereas the latter rarely put male domination at the centre of their concerns. In other words, the focus is here on the ways in which these movements identify and react to gender issues. In addition, attention will also be paid to other political structures and mobilisations.

Within a context that is marked by struggles against sexism and homophobia, we can ask to what extent gender issues impact on their modes of functioning on the one hand, on the construction of their analyses on the other hand. From this angle, the aim will be to examine whether and how activist groups examine their own gendered modes of functioning: inequalities regarding verbal interventions, attention paid to ideas, the power of defining priorities, choice of forms of action, etc. To what extent are these problems perceived as problematic amongst activist groups? To what extent can we observe a fundamental questioning of gender inequalities regarding social relations within the group, and to what extent do we find on the contrary that conflicts are avoided and that the inequalities through which the group reproduces the system of gender are legitimised? Finally, to what extent is the critique of patriarchy and of heteronormativity part of the process of definition of activist causes? What are the external pressures and the internal relations of power which lead to develop categories of analysis, modes of intervention, and claims which open up the possibility of negotiations or of a more radical critique of gender relations? From this angle, the aim is to determine the level of priority given to the critique of the gender order. When not absent altogether, this seems most often to remain a secondary aim, left to feminists or women. The aim of this conference is thus to examine both the ways in which gender issues are constructed in the course of activism (within social movements, labour unions, parties, feminist, gay and lesbian groups, associations, etc.), the appropriation and transformation of these issues, and the mechanisms of exclusion through which they are marginalised.

Conference languages: French and English

Scientific Coordinators:

Olivier Fillieule (IEPI-Institut d'Études politiques et internationales /CRAPUL and Paris I, CPRS-CNRS) and Patricia Roux (ISCM-Institut de sociologie des communications de masse /LIEGE)

Please send conference abstracts (500 to 1000 words, outlining research questions, empirical data, methodology) as attached file in RTF-format to: [Olivier Fillieule](mailto:Olivier.Fillieule@iepi.unil.ch) (olivier.fillieule@iepi.unil.ch) and [Patricia Roux](mailto:Patricia.Roux@iscm.unil.ch) (patricia.roux@iscm.unil.ch)

Deadlines:

Submission of written conference papers: 30 September 2004 (for planned publication of conference proceedings)

Propositions from graduate students are particularly encouraged.

Financial support will be provided.

The Life Course: Fragmentation, Diversity and Risk

The British Sociological Association
Annual Conference
University of York
21-23 March 2005

The new social demands and complexities of life in 'late modern' or 'postmodern' global societies are transforming the life course. In an age of 'flexible' working practices and shifting family arrangements, the fundamental co-ordinates of social life are becoming ever more transitory and uncertain. At the same time, increasing social pressures towards individualisation and a common (mediatized) knowledge of 'panics', 'crises' and 'catastrophe', leave the majority with a heightened sense of personal insecurity and social unease. Under such circumstances it appears that we are made increasingly conscious of the fact that social life is characterised above all by experiences of fragmentation, diversity and risk. People are being made to question the prevailing ideas of who they are and what they should get out of life. Moreover, it can be argued that the cultural pluralism and reflexivity of society at large is mirrored in the extent to which western sociology has become a repository for expressions of personal discontent and a 'celebration' of ideologies of difference. It is no longer possible to identify sociology with a common set of intellectual practices and disciplinary concerns; the sociological enterprise is as fragmented and uncertain as the societies it seeks to explain. How should we respond to this state of affairs? What is the 'promise' of sociology for our times?

Plenary Speakers will be:

Professor Liz Stanley (University of Newcastle Upon Tyne) and
Professor Jenny Hockey (University of Sheffield)

We invite papers addressed to the following themes:

- The Fragmentation of Youth
- Work, Family and Negotiation
- Caring Across the Life Course
- Social Identities and the Life Course
- Gender, Race and Sexuality
- The Lived Experience of Class
- Making Sense of Life Trajectories
- Methodological Approaches
- Individualisation and Risk

All BSA study groups are actively encouraged to be a part of the organised conference and where possible, to participate in one or more of the above themes. The conference organising team will also consider papers for an open stream.

Abstract submission form available from:
E-mail: Conference2005@britsoc.org.uk

or visit the BSA Website:
www.britsoc.co.uk/conference

Abstracts must reach the BSA Office by 30th September 2004. Late submissions, faxed submissions or hard copy submissions will not be considered.

Deadlines:

Last date for submission of abstracts: 30th September 2004
Last date for registration by paper presenters: 14th January 2005
Last date for presenters to provide a disk copy of paper: 24th March 2005
Conference organising team and stream convenors:
Larry Ray, Miri Song, Sarah Vickerstaff, Azrini Wahidin and Iain Wilkinson (University of Kent).

The British Sociological Association
Unit 3F/G
Mountjoy Research Centre, Stockton Road
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Elites and EU Enlargement Second International Conference, 2005 Bremen, Germany 13-14 May 2005

Moves towards greater integration and convergence involve interdependencies between existing elites in the European Union - both in the EU-15 and the new member states.

Topics in this conference will focus on the ways in which economic and political elites in both the old and new member states consider such interdependencies as positive developments or threats to national interests, as well as the extent to which new European elites are in formation. This conference will also focus on global developments and the centripetal pull of the USA. We consider interdependencies between old and new members of the EU-25, the extent to which elite member share (or not) similar values and norms.

Framework:

The Bremen conference will be second out of six workshops of the "International Network For Study of Strategic Elites and European Enlargement".

Sponsored by: British Academy, University of Bremen

Themes:

We invite papers addressed to the general topic: *Interdependencies between Eastern and Western Economic and Political Elites in the process of EU Enlargement.*

The following themes/sessions are planned:

Session 1: Opening: Between National Interests and European Challenges: Leadership in "The Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe (UNICE)" and "The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)"

Session 2: Multinational Companies and Foreign Direct Investments flowing from EU-15 to the new Member States: The economic elites in the contested terrain of implementing common standards (EMU, Single European Market, HRM policies) in an enlarged EU

Session 3: Reforming the EU's Institutions: Political elites in national Parliaments versus the European Parliament - a shift of power or a retreat to the dominance of national states?

Session 4: Lobbying by business and democratic legitimacy in the EU - does the growing clientelism endanger the growing democratisation of the EU's

institutions?

Session 5: "Old and New Europe" - The different orientations of European elites: The extent of divisions and consensus

From the conference a book will be published.

Abstract submission:

Abstracts for presentations (not more than 2000 letters, Arial 12) should be submitted for review by December 15, 2004 by email attachment to jtholen@uni-bremen.de

Abstracts will be refereed and contributors will be notified as to whether their abstracts has been accepted by the 31st of January, 2005.

Financial Support/Costs:

For the paper presenters the organizers will provide accommodation (one night), lunches, refreshments during the breaks and the conference dinner on Friday 13th of May, 2005; as well as receiving a contribution towards (international and national) travel expenses between 30 percent to 50 percent of the costs up to maximum of 200 EUROS.

Application is invited for a limited number of places for non-presenting participants at a charge of EURO 60 (students and unemployed EURO 25) which will include attendance at the conference, lunches and refreshments during breaks. For those wishing to attend the dinner on Friday 13, 2005 additional payment of EURO 35 is requested.

Important Dates:

September 1, 2004: First Call for Papers
December 15, 2004: Last date for submission of abstracts
January 31, 2005: Contributors are notified of their paper's acceptance/rejection
March 31, 2005: Last date of sending the full papers to the organizer and of registration for presenters
April 23, 2005: Last date of registration for non-presenting participants

Detailed programme information and other links are available from:

<http://www.iaw.uni-bremen.de/~jtholen/tagungen.html>

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Books and other Publications

School-to-Work Transitions in Europe: Analyses of the EU LFS 2000 Ad Hoc Module

Edited by Irena Kogan and Walter Müller
Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung (MZES), Universität Mannheim

The transition from school to work, including the core issue of youth labour market integration, is a key topic among current social research and policy interests. Its study in regard to different European countries is especially challenging, as they exhibit a wide range of institutional structures and macroeconomic context conditions. Further, data constraints, in particular a lack of adequate, accessible and comparative longitudinal data, have limited research in this area. This situation has improved with the introduction of the European Union Labour Force Survey (EU LFS) 2000 ad hoc module on transitions from school to work, which combines the strengths of the large-scale Labour Force Surveys with specific information on school-to-work transitions, like details concerning social background of respondents, their educational attainment and employment careers.

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Environmental Protest in Western Europe

Edited by Christopher Rootes,
Centre for the Study of Social and Political Movements,
University of Kent at Canterbury
Oxford University Press 2003

The rise of environmentalism has been one of the more remarkable developments in the politics of western societies in recent decades. However, as environmental awareness has become more generalised, the forms of expression of environmental concern have changed. Established environmental movement organisations have become embedded in policy

networks, but, in some countries, there has been a resurgence of environmental radicalism. New groups, adopting innovative tactics, have mounted spectacular and disruptive protests.

These developments pose interesting questions for social scientists and policy-makers. Has the institutionalisation of established environmental organisations demobilised their supporters and reduced them to a passive, credit-card waving 'conscience' constituency? Has direct participation in environmental protest become the specialised activity of smaller numbers of people? Has there been a decline in the total volume of environmental protest, or is it merely that the forms of protest have changed? Have the protest repertoires of established groups moderated over time, or have they been stimulated by the emergence of more radical groups to adopt more challenging tactics? Has environmental protest become more confrontational? Do protests employ different repertoires of action according to the issues at stake? How does the incidence of protest vary over time and from one country to another? Is there evidence of a Europeanisation of either the issues or the forms of environmental protest?

These are some of the questions this volume addresses. Based upon an analysis of the protest events reported in one quality newspaper in each of eight countries during the ten years 1988 to 1997, this is the first systematically comparative study of environmental protest in a representative cross-section of EU member states. It breaks entirely new ground in the study of environmental politics in Europe and is a major contribution to the study of protest events.

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Migration and its impact on local welfare

Gary Craig

Working Papers, Social Policy, University of Hull

'They are taking our jobs, filling our houses, claiming our benefits, jumping the queue for health services'. The issue of migration and its impact on local welfare and other services is one of the most contentious policy and political issues of this century so far. It generates heat but little light in the media and in public comment.

This new report, based on research commissioned by the Home Office and Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, outlines how to establish the facts about local impacts, as opposed to the media and political misrepresentation which commonly is associated with debates about immigration and about asylum seekers and refugees in particular. It is based on a literature review, analysis of relevant data sets, and postal and telephone qualitative surveys of a range of agency networks.

It is available price £15 (incl p/p) from Working Papers, Social Policy, University of Hull, Hull, HU6 7RX. The price for refugee organisations and small community groups is £7 incl p/p.

Gary Craig

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University of Hull
Hull, HU6 7RX

E-mail: G.Craig@hull.ac.uk

More publications on next page...

Who Marries Whom? Educational Systems as Marriage Markets in Modern Societies

Edited by Hans-Peter Blossfeld and
Andreas Timm

Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2003

This is the first cross-national study of the educational system as an increasingly important marriage market. Educational expansion and the rising educational participation of women have increased the rate of "assortative meeting" and "assortative mating" across birth cohorts. The book shows that social inequality is growing because increasingly better (and worse) educated single men and women pool their economic and cultural advantages (and disadvantages) within couples. It demonstrates that there has been an increasing closure of social structure and social networks as an unintended consequence of educational expansion.

The book is theoretically driven and combines demographic and sociological approaches with rational choice theory to explain assortative mating. Using life-history data from a broad range of industrialized countries and longitudinal statistical models, the book analyzes the process of spouse selection in the life courses of single men and women. The countries included vary widely in important characteristics such as demographic behavior and institutional characteristics. The life course approach explicitly recognizes the dynamic nature of partner decisions, the importance of educational roles and institutional circumstances as young men and women move through their life paths, and the accumulation of advantages and disadvantages experienced by individuals.

Who Marries Whom is of interest to sociologists, demographers, economists and students of social structure, social inequality, social and demographic change.

356 pages

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Social Security in Finland

Kari Salminen and Heikki Niemelä
Finnish Centre for Pensions, Social Insurance Institution, and The Finnish Pension Alliance TELA, Helsinki 2003

This publication offers an overview of the Finnish social security system, including its historical development and future outlook, and takes a look at social expenditures and the methods whereby they are financed.

Between the First and Second World Wars, social provision in Finland was still largely dependent on municipal poor relief. Yet the interwar period also saw the implementation of extensive land reforms and amendments to the labour laws, as well as the first steps towards social insurance in the form of old-age and disability insurance. These measures were aimed at strengthening national unity and healing the political and social divisions created by the civil war of 1918.

Social security in Finland has a distinctive historical tradition characterised by efforts towards greater national unity arising from the experiences of the Second World War. The Finnish social security system emerged around 40 years ago from the reform of the national pension and unemployment insurance schemes and the introduction of earnings-related pensions and compulsory sickness insurance. These events laid the foundation for the modern era of Finnish social insurance, in which social provision was harnessed to the goals of increasing economic growth and the acceleration of structural change in society. The growth of the welfare state and the expansion of public services in the 1970s were manifested in such events as the enactment of the Public Health Act and the introduction of child day care services.

Despite cutbacks made in the 1990s, the level of provision in the Finnish social security system has remained close to the European average. Yet the benefits providing a minimum income protection have not kept pace with the increase in overall economic well-being and have, in fact, lost real value.

Developments such as globalisation, migration, the ageing of the population, and deeper and broader integration at the European level are having an effect on the Finnish social security system and its financing. A reform of earnings-related pension provision scheduled to take effect in 2005 is seen as having the potential to rein in the rising cost of pension provision due to population ageing and keeping pension funding on a sustainable basis. The residence-based social insurance and the social and health services, on the other hand, will face increasing pressures, making it a challenge to guarantee everyone minimum income protection and access to basic services.

Racism and Anti-Racism in Europe

Alana Lentin
University of Oxford

This is an in-depth sociological study of the phenomenon of anti-racism, as both political discourse and social movement practice in western Europe.

Lentin develops a comparative study of anti-racism in Britain, France, Italy and Ireland. While 'race' and racism have been submitted to many profound analyses, anti-racism has often been dealt with as either the mere opposite of racism or as a theme for prescriptives or polemics by those concerned with the persistence of racist discrimination.

By contrast, this book views anti-racism as a variety of discourses that are central to the understanding of the politics of modern states.

Examining antiracism gives us insights not only into current debates on citizenship, immigration and Europeanisation, but it also crucially assists us in understanding the nature of race, racism and racialisation themselves.

At a time of mounting state racism against asylum seekers, migrants and refugees throughout Europe and beyond, this book provides a much-needed exploration of the discourse of anti-racism that shapes policy and public opinion today.

Alana Lentin is an EC Research Fellow at the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford.

She completed her PhD at the European Institute of Florence and has published many articles on racism.

More publications on next page...

Wohlfahrtsstaat und Geschlechterverhältnis im Umbruch. Was kommt nach dem Ernährermodell? Jahrbuch für Europa- und Nordamerika-Studien 2003

Sigrid Leitner, Ilona Ostner und Margit Schratzenstaller (Editor)

Opladen: Leske & Budrich 2003

Contents:

Sigrid Leitner, Ilona Ostner, Margit Schratzenstaller
Einleitung: Was kommt nach dem Ernährermodell? - Sozialpolitik zwischen Re-Kommodifizierung und Re-Familialisierung

Review-Essays:

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Christiane Dienel: Eltern, Kinder und Erwerbsarbeit: Die EU als familienpolitischer Akteur

III. Bruchstellen - Grenzen wohlfahrtsstaatlicher Individualisierung

Anna Gavanias und Fiona Williams: Herrschen und Dienen: Die neue Arbeitsteilung zwischen Frauen

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Ulla Björnberg: Dilemmata der De-Familialisierung

Margit Schratzenstaller: Neue Dilemmata - neue Bedarfe: Synopse und Ausblick

Entgrenzung von Arbeit und Leben. Zum Wandel der Beziehung von Erwerbstätigkeit und Privatsphäre im Alltag

Karin Gottschall, G. Günter Voß (Editor)
Rainer Hampp Verlag, München und Mering 2003

Die "Entgrenzung von Arbeit" ist ein wichtiges Stichwort der aktuellen

soziologischen Beschäftigung mit dem Wandel der Erwerbstätigkeit. Eine besonders tiefgreifende "Entgrenzung" vollzieht sich infolge neuer betrieblicher Strategien im Verhältnis von Erwerbssphäre und privatem Leben.

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European Sociologist, the Newsletter of the ESA accepts all types of material of

relevance to sociologist working on or in Europe - articles, 'think pieces', comments or letters to the Editor, announcements or research initiatives, conferences, seminars, newly-published books etc. Material should be sent directly to the editor (Deadline for Issue 19 is 31.09.2004):

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