

ESA 2021 – General Call – RN 09
Sociological Knowledges for Alternative Futures
15th Conference of the European Sociological Association
31 August – 3 September 2021, Barcelona / Spain

Deadline: **18 September 2020**
send to: coordinator@europeansociology.org
by Andrea Maurer

Research Network: RN09 Economic Sociology

RN coordinators (min. 2, with full names, affiliations and email addresses):

Andrea Maurer, University of Trier, Germany (coordinator), andrea.maurer@uni-trier.de
Alberto Veira Ramos, University Carlos III de Madrid, Spain, alberto.veira@uc3m.es
Sebastian Nessel, University of Graz, Austria, sebastian.nessel@uni-graz.at

General call: RN09, Economic Sociology

Sociologists have been quite aware of the mutual interrelationships between society and economy from the outset. After the tremendous economic and social crises at the beginning of the 21st century sociologists started rethinking classical economic forms such as market exchange, private firms or cooperatives and searching for new and alternative ways of conceptualizing economy and society. In addition, the current corona pandemic forcefully reminds sociologists to attentively observe how societal and economic institutions react to the new realities and ask about the conditions of new or alternative ways of organizing the economy. While new social and economic activities and forms of thinking arise against the backdrop of the current and the past crises, further economic sociological perspectives on the economy and the interplay between economy and society are necessary. General questions to deal with are as follows:

- How have institutions been shaken by the current crises? Which political, economic or civil societal reactions can be observed?
- How can economic sociology contribute to the understanding and explanation of socio-economic change?
- How can we describe and understand disruptive changes in markets and economic relations?
- What are the roots and results of economic nationalism? Does the current crisis accelerate mercantilism tendencies, in Europe as well as world-wide?
- What are some of the alternative ways of thinking about the economy or organizing economic actions that rise today?
- How are social, economic, and political institutions and processes intertwined?

While we invite submissions addressing these questions, we also invite any other contributions that promote the sociological study of the economy in its entirety, such as:

- Theoretical perspectives in economic sociology
- How to go on and develop economic sociology in Europe and beyond
- Social and economic inequality
- Money, finance and society
- Markets and morality or solidarity
- Markets, digitalization and innovation
- Modes of economic coordination and governance

List of Semi Plenary Sessions

Semi plenary session: RN02 (Sociology of Art) and RN09 (Economic Sociology)

Chairs: Andrea Maurer (RN09) and Dafne Muntanyola (RN02)

Semi plenary session: RN02 (Sociology of Art) and RN09 (Economic Sociology)

Chairs: Andrea Maurer (RN09) and Dafne Muntanyola-Saura (RN02)

andrea.maurer@uni-trier.de and dafne.muntanyola@uab.cat

Title: “Artmaking and Economy in Time of Crises”

Speakers: *Marta Herrero, Alexandra Nenko, Arturo Rodriguez Morató, Nina Tessa Zahner.*

Abstract:

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all aspects of arts and cultural life as well as the economic sphere, just like other sectors of society. During the last few months, we have witnessed coping reactions and calls for help from all categories of actors involved in the arts and culture sphere. At the same time, the arts and culture as all kind of economic actors have proven ever more significant in a time of existential crisis and be able to develop new forms of economic activities, markets, and associations. These new and alternative developments are worth to be studied in inter- and transdisciplinary perspectives. The session seeks to bring together experts specialised in cultural policies and others in economics and market issues, to discuss what changes are happening in the arts and culture on macro, meso, and micro levels and the ways this is related to economy.

Semi plenary session: RN09 (Economic Sociology) and RN17 (Work, Employment and Industrial Relations)

Chairs: Alberto Veira-Ramos (RN09) and Valeria Pulignano (RN17)

Invited semi-plenary speakers: Alan Felstead and Nicola Pensiero

Title: Discussing the Post-Pandemic Labour Market: The Expansion of Remote Work

We consider 2021 to be an ideal year to organize a semi-plenary session to present the most recent empirical research on remote work, its past and potential future development, and its impact on productivity, work-life balance, social inequalities and future education and training. A lower presence of workers in the workplace can pose greater difficulties for supervisory tasks, but it can also favor a more efficient use of spaces and the innovation of new forms of coordination and evaluation of task execution. Moreover, greater autonomy and flexibility in the organization of working time can lead to a redistribution of time spent on domestic tasks, or leisure. At the same time, remote work could entail an erosion of workers’ positional power with respect to employers and/or penalize certain individuals such as single parents, particularly women. Further expansion of remote work will necessarily affect the types of skills that future workers will require. This will provoke the reassessment of education and training programs and how education is provided.

List of Joint Sessions:**1. Joint session: RN02 (Sociology of Art) and RN09 (Economic Sociology), coordinated by RN09**

Chairs: Nina Zahner (RN02) and Andrea Maurer (RN09)

Title: Economy of the Arts - Alternative Forms of Copying with Economic Pressure and Crises?

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all sectors of society, but it were the coping reactions on the part of actors involved in the arts and the cultural sphere that have been of major visibility to all of us (balcony concerts, joined online dance projects, club music streamings etc.). The arts have proven of major significance in a time of existential crisis and have showed how they are able to develop specific new forms of economic activities, markets, and associations. These new and alternative developments are worth to be studied in inter- and transdisciplinary perspectives. The session seeks to discuss what changes are happening in the arts on macro, meso, and micro levels and how these are and can be related to broader economic developments.

2. Joint session RN09 (Economic Sociology) and RN17 (Work, Employment and Industrial Relations), coordinated by RN09

Chairs: Alberto Veira-Ramos (RN09) and Valeria Pulignano (RN17)

Title: Impact of the expansion of remote work after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many businesses adjusted to the economic crisis provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic by implementing remote work practices amongst their employees. Firms are quickly drawing lessons from this large-scale experiment and the potential gains that remote work can offer to employers and employees are likely to become more evident than ever. Thus, expectations are that remote work will continue expanding even after the pandemic crises is over. In fact, differences between better-educated and less skilled employees may amplify under such context, leading to increasing inequalities. This session is open to researchers who would like to share their findings on how the expansion of remote work can affect productivity at firm and individual levels, increase or decrease job-satisfaction and amplify or reduce inequalities in the labour markets.

3. Joint session: RN09 (Economic Sociology) and RN16 (Sociology of Health and Illness), coordinated by RN09

Chairs: Sebastian Nessel (RN09) and Marta Gibin (RN16)

Title: In ourselves and pharmacists we trust? New developments in health care and pharmacy markets

Health care markets are undergoing crucial change due to increasing self-medication and use of non-prescription medicines (OTC) such as analgesics, cold or cough drugs. Although there is a liberalization trend in pharmacy markets, most OTC's are still pharmacy-only drugs. Pharmacists more and more challenge practitioners as the central health care intermediaries and OTC become an alternative to prescription drugs. This joint session is interested in the social processes underlying growing self-medication and OTC use and their consequences on pharmacy markets and health care professions. We invite contributions that address but are not limited to questions such as: Which political, institutional or cultural factors contribute to growing self-medication and use of OTC? Which are the consequences of increasing OTC use for public health care systems and professions? Which social processes influence OTC pricing and valuation? Which factors influence OTC recommendations and preferences of branded vs. generic OTC (e.g. trust, professionalism)?

4. Joint session RN09 (Economic Sociology) and RN17 (Work, Employment and Industrial Relations), coordinated by RN09

Chairs: Zeev Rosenheek or Alberto Veira-Ramos (RN09) and Valeria Pulignano (RN17)

Title: The effect of the Corona crisis on intergenerational inequality in the labour market.

The economic crisis provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic is having a deep impact on the functioning of labour markets all over the world. Recent evidence suggests that income loss and exposure to risk of being infected is not affecting all workers equally. The younger precariat is being especially affected by the crisis, deepening even more their current and future social and economic insecurity and risk. That might have important consequences for the way in which varied economic and social institutions, including markets, operate.

5. Joint session RN09 (Economic Sociology) and RN05 (Sociology of Consumption), coordinated by RN09

Chairs: Sebastian Nessel (RN09) and Stefan Wahlen (RN05)

Title: Circular economy: Sociological accounts of actors, practices and market organisation

The notion of circular economy is presented as an alternative to current linear and resource intensive economic models. It proposes to extend the life of products through practices such as repair, re-use, up- and recycling and to diminish obsolescence through technical, legal or informational means. This joint session seeks to discuss sociological perspectives on the circular economy understanding it as an emerging vision of economic and social change and a response to the multiple crisis modern societies are confronted with. We invite contributions which address but are not limited to questions such as: Which are the main actors and ideas of a circular economy? Which power-relations contribute or hinder circular production, market organisation and innovation? How is "waste" re-valuated and how do associated value-chains change? What are the practices, prerequisites, and political instruments to change current linear production and consumption patterns? Which may be the macroeconomic outcomes of circular models?

6. Joint session RN05 (Sociology of Consumption) and RN09 (Economic Sociology), coordinated by RN05

Chairs: Stefan Wahlen (RN05) and Sebastian Nessel (RN09)

Title: Moral Economies of Consumption

Consumption is often linked with contested societal issues such as climate crisis, environmental sustainability or social justice. Normative concerns in consumption are embedded in moral structures and institutional dynamics that are associated with capitalist economies, policies and societies at large. This joint session is interested in the interplay of consumption moralities mutually shaped by institutional frameworks and everyday activity. We invite contributions which address, but are not limited to questions such as: How are consumption practices shaped by moral and political orientations? What alternatives exist to capitalist profit maximizing moralities? What are key actors, e.g. consumers, activists, social movements, politicians? How do economic practices shape what is understood as good or evil? What kind of positions in mundane normativities and moral judgements advance alternative economic activity? What are key economic moralities of evaluating and legitimising? How do actors deal with contradictory moral concerns or hierarchies of moralities?

7. Joint session RN09 (Economic Sociology) and RN10 (Sociology of Education), coordinated by RN09

Chairs: Nicola Pensiero or Alberto Veira Ramos (RN09), and Bernadette Brereton or Adriana Aubert (RN10)

Title: Consequences of school lockdown on education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The spring of 2020 saw prolonged lockdowns of schools in OECD countries. As a result, academic performance became increasingly dependent on home schooling and the ability and technological capacity and enablement to exploit opportunities provided by online education. This joint session aims to serve as a meeting point for those social researchers conducting their work on the consequences of the lockdown on education performance, and/or on the long term consequences on future educational and professional trajectories of pupils who have suffered the lockdown and/or the future organisation of conventional and online education.

8. Joint session RN09 (Economic Sociology) and RN21 (Quantitative Methods), coordinated by RN21

Chairs: Wolfgang Aschauer (RN21) and Alberto Veira Ramos and Sebastian Koos (RN09)

Title: Empirical research in economic sociology: challenges and new developments

A lot has happened when it comes to quantitative methods and empirical research especially within new economic sociology. There are experiments, mixed-methods, statistics, simulations, historical research to name only a few. This joint session asks for new developments in empirical research with reference to particular challenges in studying economic topics from a sociological perspective.

9. Joint session RN23 (Sexuality) and RN09 (Economic Sociology), coordinated by RN23

Chairs: Isabel Crowhurst and Christian Klesse (RN23) and Alberto Veira Ramos (RN09)

Title: Intersections of sexuality and economy

The relationship between sexuality and economic life is often ignored in economic analyses and sexuality studies. This joint session encourages fruitful explorations of the intersection of sexuality and economy. Some of the questions we wish to address are: under what conditions, and with what consequences do people combine economic transactions with intimate and sexual relations? How can we make sense of the social anxieties that surround the mixing of economic activity and sexual relations? How can economic practices and beliefs help us understand homo and hetero normativities and the exclusions that they foreground? Do financial institutions operate as arbiters of morality to regulate the sexual lives of individuals? How are fiscal and other economic policies reinforcing hierarchies based on normative understandings of sexuality and sexual behaviours?

10. Joint session RN09 (Economic Sociology), RN20 (Qualitative Methods), and RN32 (Political Sociology)

Chairs: Florian Elliker (RN20), Alberta Giorgi (RN32), Andrea Maurer (RN09), coordinated by RN 20

Title: Surveillance Capitalism – new challenges for social sciences?

The widespread of digital techniques and big data are changing and threatening nearly every part of economic and social life. One of the most exciting and challenging result of digitalization is the rise of

new forms of surveillance. The joint sessions asks for contributions dealing with such topics and offering new insights.