HELSINKI 2001 – The Finishing Touches

As you read this, the final pieces are being put in place for VISIONS and DIVISIONS: CHALLENGES FOR EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGY the Fifth Conference of our European Sociological Association to be held at Helsinki, Finland from August 28th to September 1st 2001.

Our special correspondent, Anna Rotkirch reports:

There have been a record number of abstracts submitted for Visions and Divisions, which is the title we have given to the Fifth ESA conference being held in Helsinki. Interest in our conference has been absolutely huge. So huge, in fact, that many of the networks and sessions will now have extra and/or parallel sessions added to them.

This allows us to accommodate all the papers that have been accepted - and we will fill most of the University of Helsinki's city campus!

We have got a fascinating list of plenary speakers. It includes (in strictly alphabetical order!) Erik Allardt, Janina and Zygmunt Bauman, Daniel Bertaux, Holinz Bude, Alena Ledeneva, Richard Sennett and Sylvia Walby.

If you plan to arrive on Tuesday 28th August, you will be able to enjoy the rector's reception and afterwards we will have a special Finnish evening with barbecue sausages and live music. Weather permitting, this will be an outdoor event. During the conference we will be putting on some 'one-shot' and ad hoc-sessions and panels. These include a presidential panel chaired by Jiri Musil on Europe 1975-2025, a panel on Nordic Youth Research coordinated by Helena Helve, and a fascinating round table on the Social Exclusion of Men in Contemporary Russia which will be coordinated by Sarah Ashwin, - not to mention several Meet the Author Sessions discussing recent Important books about Europe (more details below).

And don't leave without taking part in one of the various sociological walks and the other side events of the congress! The post-conference tour to St Petersburg has also attracted many of you. In addition to sight-seeing, this tour will include a visit to the European University of St Petersburg hosted by ESA executive member Elena Zdravomyslova.

All details & more information on the ESA web page!

REMINDER: You have to pay the registration fee before June 15, if you wish to have your abstract published in the conference book! Later payments are of course still accepted (but in such cases the abstracts will not be published).

M E E T T H E A U T H O R

A very lively feature of the ESA Conferences is a series of events in which sociologists who have written books on aspects of European society (or the wider transatlantic or global contexts in which Europe exists) give presentations of their work. They are then invited to debate central themes of their work with expert commentators. It is in the cut and thrust of debate that new ideas and perspectives may be tested and shared – and that is what our Meet the Author sessions at Helsinki are all about. Elena Zdravomyslova, who is organising these important sessions, has sent European Sociologist the following information although, as you will see, not all details are finalised yet. The authors and commentators will include the following:

- Steven Saxonberg The Fall (Harwood Academic 2001). Commentator not yet fixed
- Peter Wagner A History and Theory of the Social Sciences (Sage 2001). Commentator: Roberta Sassatelli
- AlenaLedeneva, the editor, presents the book Economic Crime in Russia (Kluwer Law International 2000). Commentator: not fixed
- Devorah Kalekin-Fishman, the editor presents the book edited by Roswitha Breckner, Devorah Kalekin-Fishman, Ingrid Miethe Biographies and the Division of Europe (Leske+Budrich 2000). Commentator: Karlheinz Schneider
- Markku Lonkilla Social Networks in Post-Soviet Russia (Helsinki: Kikimora, 2000). Commentator: Sonja Chuihike, CISR, St-Petersburg, Russia
- Derek Robbins Bourdieu and Culture (Sage, 2000). Commentator Niilo Kauppi
- Dennis Smith Norbert Elias and Modern Social Theory (Sage Publications, 2001).Commentator: Margareta Bertilsson
- Anna Rotkirch The Man Question: Loves and Lives in Late 20th Century Russia (Kikimra, 2000). Commentator: Elena Zdravomyslova

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**SETTLE THE AGENDA: THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIOCOLAL ASSOCIATION**

These are the thoughts of a few women on the ESA Executive Committee, reflecting on the activities of the two last years over a glass of wine in a cozy Art Deco café in Prague March 10th 2001. Margareta Bertilsson took notes of the discussion, and presented the points in plenum to the whole EC the next day. Here are the points written for the first 15 minutes that we finally presented at our Meeting.

1. ESA should strive for setting new agendas of debates. We feel that we have been focusing on this ambition in the two last years - perhaps as a consequence of the fact that so many of our EC-meetings have been occupied discussing conference issues, first the Amsterdam and then the Helsinki conference. We also feel that ESA should try to define its own profile more clearly in the myriad of other professional organisations; should it just stimulate all the others, or should it strive for being just a little different; to seek new issues that engage European sociologists broadly? ESA through its EC could try bringing about a broader role of ESA than the Journal. As these clearly are important, it might be. I think that it would be interesting to react only to the ideas proposed by you - address the EC and the Congress. We also feel that ESA should define its own profile more clearly and define some particular profile among the many existing associations is also well taken, I would only place the emphasis a little bit differently.

2. A second point which I would like to stress is that the strength of our association - also in a potential new role as a lobby in Brussels - is the EC. ESA should strive for setting new agendas of debates. We feel that we have been focusing on this ambition in the two last years - perhaps as a consequence of the fact that so many of our EC-meetings have been occupied discussing conference issues, first the Amsterdam and then the Helsinki conference. We also feel that ESA should try to define its own profile more clearly in the myriad of other professional organisations; should it just stimulate all the others, or should it strive for being just a little different; to seek new issues that engage European sociologists broadly? ESA through its EC could try bringing about a broader role of ESA than the Journal. As these clearly are important, it might be. I think that it would be interesting to react only to the ideas proposed by you - address the EC and the Congress. We also feel that ESA should define its own profile more clearly and define some particular profile among the many existing associations is also well taken, I would only place the emphasis a little bit differently.

3. First, it seems to me that ESA had the intention to achieve something "traditional" - namely to increase the communication and cooperation between European sociologists as such. In this regard, even if ESA resembles many other associations, it has achieved and will achieve something new. (The experience of many European sociologists was, and still is, that they have much more contacts with e.g. American sociologists than with other sociologists working in neighboring countries...)

4. A second point which I would like to stress is that the strength of our association - also in a potential new role as a lobby in Brussels etc. - strongly depends on the number of members. I think that it makes a big difference if ESA has about 600-700 members, as now, or 5000 or more (as it could have!). This is not only because numbers impress the politicians, but even more because high membership numbers guarantee a regular, solid income, a well-equipped secretariat, and possibly some particular role within the European social science. But there are other institutional actors around, and the question is to define them, and to discuss whether or not we can have an impact.

5. We also discussed the form of our Congresses such as we now see it taking shape in the case of Helsinki. There were concerns about the balance between Streams and Networks. If we allow the Networks to be the basis of the Congresses, there will be less space for new issues and new debates. We should promote that Streams be an important bone in future Congresses for the simple reason that such Streams can provide issues and take a lead rather than striving to consolidate into Networks. This is not to disregard Networks, as these clearly are important, but a plea for greater future flexibility.

6. In order to broaden the Program activities beyond the regularly occurring Congresses, it is important not to lock the EC Programme Committee, its Chairman, and its discussions too closely with the Local Congress Programme and its activities. The EC Programme Committee should have as an important ambition to explore the local institutional environment in Europe, where ESA could have an impact.

Capitoline Diaz-Martinez, Chiara Saraceno, Margareta Bertilsson, Mojca Novak, Yasemin Soydas

**A RESPONSE**

Dear Margareta, dear colleagues,

This is to react shortly to the ideas proposed by you and colleagues. First, I would like to confirm what I said in Prague: I really find it very promising that you - after some experience within the EC of ESA - find it necessary to develop new ideas and to give new impetus to the EC. I agree also with your feeling that something more provocative and engaging might be necessary. The idea that ESA should try to find a niche, or develop some particular profile among the many existing associations is also well taken, I would only place the emphasis a little bit differently.

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**SUMMER 2001**

**BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGIST ASSOCIATION • ISSUE 13**

**IMPORTANT BREAKING NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

From 1st September 2001, the last day of the Helsinki Conference, the office of the ESA Secretariat will be moving from Amsterdam to Paris where it will be used at RESCO (Institut de Recherche sur les Societes Contemporaines). See our website http://www.resco.fri. More details will be available during the Helsinki Conference.

The Publications Committee is looking for a new editor for European Sociologist, the ESA's academic journal. Further details in this newsletter.

**HOW WE VOTE, WHEN WE VOTE**

At the ESA Executive Committee meeting in Prague in March 2001, the committee decided to propose a change of statutes. The details are given below:

**Charters of Statutes, proposed by the Executive Committee, Prague meeting, 9.3.2001.**

The following change of statutes will be formally proposed by the Executive Committee during the meeting of the General Assembly in Helsinki. (Proposed new sentences underlined.)

Art.9 The Executive Committee consists of 16 members, one of them the president. They elect from its members:

- a maximum of three vice-presidents
- a treasurer
- a General Secretary

(dropped 'one of them, the president')

Art.12 Regular members in good standing elect the members of the Executive Committee and the President. The elections take place during the General Assembly in order to allow members not attending the General Assembly to be represented by a committee which will be appointed by the General Assembly.

Art.13 It proposes a slate of 30 candidates, fifteen of each gender, taking into account region and fields of research, for the executive committee, and 4 candidates for the Presidency, half of them male, half female.

Art.14 Every member may vote for a maximum of 10 candidates for the Executive Committee, and for one candidate for presidency.

Art.16 The change of statutes or the dissolution of the association may be proposed by:

- the executive committee with a 2/3 majority
- the Council of National Associations with a 2/3 majority
- by 20% of the regular members of the association.

The change of statutes must be approved by a majority of the General Assembly or 50% of the regular members of the association in good standing, taking part in the vote; the vote is valid if at least 51% of the members take part. The proposal to dissolve the association must be approved by a majority of 2/3 of the regular members in good standing.

**END PROPOSAL**
THE POWER OF LANGUAGE AND THE LANGUAGE OF POWER

In this issue we feature two contributions, by Elzbieta Halas and Capitolina Diaz respectively, that direct attention to the fact that patterns of language use have serious implications for patterns of power and influence in the world inhabited by European sociologists. Again, we are publishing these pieces as contributions to a debate that we invite others to join in. What do you think?

ESA Language "Non-Policy." Practice and Hidden Ideology

The agenda of Executive Council meeting in Prague, held on March 10-11, 2001, included questions of language policy of the Association. Asked by President Jin Musil to present some major dimensions of that problem and to open the discussion, I presented some of my reflections that express my private opinion.

First, it is worth remembering what Robert Miller wrote about in European Sociologist, Winter 1999/2000, that ESA does not have an official language. English does not have that kind of a distinguished status and generally all attempts at giving any group of languages such status have been abandoned. English, the language of ESA Statutes and the language used by Association members to convey ideas during Congresses is only a working language. "Only" can not however block out the structural factors causing the language practice to be anglophone.

It would be an oversimplification to say that it is "done" or "constructed" by the English language users. Of course, this practice has its systemic conditions, among which the change of balance of power after the Second World War and domination of the United States is well known. One of the results of that change was the weakening of the position of such languages as German, Italian, and French, which – together with English – had belonged to the so-called "great four" languages of sociology. The Congresses reflected, for example, in a list of one hundred most important sociological books compiled by Dirk Franch, which does not contain a single work written in any other language/languages of the meeting organizers and making them available through the Internet. The National Sociological Associations could help to achieve this goal. I do not think it would be a particularly difficult task.

I also suggest that basic information about the ESA Congress, be it only the title and the name of the association on posters and programmes, be formulated not only in English but also in the language/languages of the local organizers (for example, during the Meeting in Helsinki in Finnish and Swedish).

In order to show the multicultural community of scholars the titles of speeches (and abstracts) presented during plenary sessions should be formulated in English and in a native language of speakers. Perhaps it makes sense to suggest a possibility of conducting the session ad hoc in a language/languages of the meeting organizers and their close neighbours.

Obviously, we all realize that in a globalizing world two ideologies of language once again collide: the uniformizing ideology of the Enlightenment and the romantic ideology – following Johann G. von Herder – of differentiation of languages and cultures.

The idea of integrated Europe will quickly turn out to be disappointing if it leads to one-sided domination (i.e., exploitation) by the West and if advantages resulting from mutual cultural exchange are not appreciated. Undesirable consequences of Anglicophone ignorance of other languages were discussed by Dennis Smith (European Sociologist, Winter 1999/2000). Comparative research of linguistic competence and linguistic attitudes of European scholars could bring us to interesting conclusions.
The rare presence of non English journals in the SSCI.

Many sociologists, at some moment in their professional lives, get in touch with the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI in the following). Sometimes, we use the SSCI as a data base, which provides us with information for our research or teaching activities. On other occasions the SSCI is used as a standard for academic excellence. For instance, in an increasing number of countries, academics are judged according to a criterion that takes into account the papers published in journals referenced in the SSCI. But unfortunately for both uses, the SSCI is not very useful when we publish in, or we look for references belonging to, journals outside the USA or the UK.

The SSCI references 98 Sociology journals. Fifty are from the USA, 42 are Europeans and 6 come from the rest of the World. 23 out of the 42 European journals are published in the UK, and the rest are distributed as follows: the Netherlands 6, Germany 4, France 2, the Czech Republic 1, Croatia 1, Ireland 1, Norway 1, Slovakia 1, Russia 1 and Sweden 1. But many of these journals outside the UK are also in English or are bilingual in English and the national language of the country of their publication.

The value and the influence (hence, the intellectual power) of the SSCI referenced journals is reinforced by the fact that sociologists in general, both the most prestigious sociologists and the less prestigious ones, try to publish in one of those journals, when they happen to have a good article. This fact reduces the quality of the European journals published in languages other than English, and by the same token, it undermines the scientific value of these languages.

The publication of a great part of the sociological literature in English may be viewed as a good thing. English is, by far, the most widely known language among international sociologists. However, the way in which this process of linguistic centralization is achieved poses some important problems to our scientific community. In the first place, the problem arising from the fact that this linguistic centralization is not, at least in a way, the result of a natural process. A process through which sociologists, by using their discretion and their free will, would ponder their expressive capabilities and the situation of the "intellectual market" to which they address their work, in order to decide to write in English or not to do so. What happens is that the current, and strongly biased, selection of journals by the SSCI introduces a distortion in the "natural" processes of selecting the journal that best fits one's paper. Very often, sociologists do not choose to publish in SSCI referenced journals because they are the best environment for their thoughts, but because of the added bonus that the SSCI represents.

Sociology is not like other sciences (for example, particle physics) a discipline in which one may reasonably assume that there is a basic paradigm consensus. Sociology is a multiparadigmatic discipline that encompasses a variety of epistemic views, which are firmly anchored in national and linguistic cultural traditions. Therefore a reduction in its cultural scope will probably introduce an unhealthy reduction in its epistemological diversity. There is another negative consequence of this linguistic reductionism imposed by the use of the SSCI as a parameter (a common procedure) to evaluate individual productivity. It is that in any international comparison between sociologists from English speaking countries and sociologists from non English speaking countries, the outcome will inevitably give a substantial advantage to American and British scholars.

Although the expression is too strong to use, this whole phenomenon could be considered as a kind of cultural genocide self inflicted by the sociological community. The process takes place on a global scale. But in more specific terms, the European sociological space must find its identity in the diversity of its components, not in the homogeneity of one language, one culture and one sociological perspective.

In a global world, even American and British scholars and institutions would probably like to become acquainted with the work of colleagues from other parts of the world. No doubt, a more internationally representative SSCI, will be more useful to the sociological community and would be more fair to the plurality of our discipline and of our work.

Capitina Diaz

Technical Note: For those interested in these issues, go to http://sunweb.isinet.com/isi/journals/index.html Once there, select "The ISI Database: The Journal Selection Process" and you arrive at http://sunweb.isinet.com/isi/hot/essays/selectionofmaterialforcoverage/199701.html where most of the relevant information may be found. If you are interested in the list of cited journals in sociology, you can find it in: http://sunweb.isinet.com/isi/journals/index.html Once there, find "Searchable databases," go down to "Social Sciences Citation Index," select "View subject category" and write "Sociology." Then you have the list with the 98 journals. Contact cdiaz@telecable.es
Sociologists in the Global City

Science and the Market have been the two great engines of creative destruction in the modern world. They were first brought together in Europe. Now they are global in their reach. European thinkers like Theodor Adorno, Max Horkheimer, Herbert Marcuse, Zygmunt Bauman and Ulrich Beck have provided a powerful critique of Science, balancing the optimism of its early advocates with a more sober estimate of its damaging effects. Sociologists and other intellectuals have been remarkably successful in getting this message about science across to the public at large.

**Denis Smith** argues that a similar task needs to be done for the idea of the Market. Recently, the neo-liberal message about the virtues of the market has penetrated popular culture to a remarkable extent, perhaps most of all in Britain but also, in a different way, in Central and Eastern Europe. We need more voices explaining the damage done by pursuing the ideal of near-exclusive reliance on the market.

In the Middle Ages two main ideas were drawn on to explain why the world worked the way it did. One answer was ‘Things have always happened that way.’ And the other answer – which experts in business were more likely to propagate – was ‘It is God’s will.’ Custom and religion covered all cases.

But by the late eighteenth century custom and religion had been replaced by two other principles that seemed to make sense of societies. One was the idea of science. While custom looked backward from the present and said ‘we will do things this way because we always have,’ science looked forward from the present and said ‘we will find out how things work and then use this knowledge to bring about the situation we want.’

The other key principle was the idea of the market. Adam Smith argued that the invisible hand of the market encouraged productive investment, brought buyers and sellers together, and helped society to function peacefully.

Science and the market had the same heroic figure at the centre of the stage. This hero was the rational individual who collected as much accurate information as possible in order to take intelligent actions that would serve his or her interests.

Other ideas and concepts came onto the agenda as well - like the state, the people, natural rights and so on - but science and the market had a special place because they seemed to be mechanisms that made things happen. They penetrated every aspect of life. They were levers of change. Now, in the two centuries and more since the late eighteenth century, European intellectuals have had a love affair with the idea of science but it is a love affair that has gone rather sour in the past half century. The idea of science has now become associated with threatening concepts like risk and pollution.

However, the idea of the market seems to have retained an amazing amount of prestige, especially in the Anglo-Saxon world, that is Britain and the United States.

This is a strange outcome at first sight. After all, science offers intellectuals (including sociologists) a clear function – as the managers and manipulators of science. By contrast, the idea of the market, especially the neo-liberal version of it, tends to make intellectuals redundant. This is because in the neo-liberal free market, all buyers and sellers make their own decisions. If they decide to buy expert advice, that is their own business but the person with the purse is in charge, not the expert. How do we get out of this trap?

Potentially, the European Union provides a continent-wide public sphere in which intellectuals from throughout Europe can play a large role. Technically, that Europe-wide public sphere already exists because we have a European parliament. In practice, this public sphere is split up into insulated national segments with only a limited amount of cross-national debate, mainly in elite newspapers such as Le Monde Diplomatique.

This situation will, hopefully, gradually improve, partly by way of the contacts made through organisations such as the European Science Foundation and European Sociological Association.

In the meantime, we can learn from American intellectuals based in the universities who have over a century of experience of surviving in a business-dominated society.

When I did some research on the Chicago School of sociology who were prominent in the early twentieth century, I found that people like Robert Park, William Ogden and Louis Wirth had spent a lot of time hammering out ways of maintaining their intellectual independence. Some of their strategies are interesting. For example, they paid a lot of attention to the task of understanding how public opinion worked, how it was formed through the mass media for example.

The men and women of the Chicago School realised that public opinion was a resource that could be brought into play to influence government and ensure that voices other than business were heard.

Another thing they did as individuals was make good contacts with the world outside the university, making strong links with many kinds of organisation, taking an interest in local and regional community developments. Also, as citizens, they made sure that their voices were heard in debates within the media and in public forums of all kinds.

This meant that they could get their own ideas, their own concepts, their own theories fed into the public discourse.

What I learned from this research was that intellectuals who wish to protect their independence, if they are operating in a democracy, should make sure that they do not restrict themselves just to seeking influence directly with their potential paymasters – whether they are from government, business or some professional organisation. It is also highly rational for intellectuals to cultivate the cultural climate within which those paymasters operate.

For example, what the Chicago School did, in a sustained way and over several decades, was champion the role of the highly educated professional who was aware of the complex array of social forces that operated in urban life. The Chicago School sociologists were experts in how cities grew and changed. They managed, directly or indirectly, to teach many hundreds of practising professionals to think about city planning in terms of a sophisticated ecological model that made no concessions to the neo-classical model of the free market.

As an example of intellectuals shaping public discourse over a broad front was this a tremendous success.

What gave the Chicago intellectuals their opening, their chance, was the widespread fear and anxiety stimulated by the rapid growth of enormous cities full of swelling sub-populations drawn from all corners of the globe.

Citizens and politicians wanted a way of understanding the torrent of urban change and, if possible, managing it peacefully. The leading players in these American cities in the early twentieth century were large-scale business operators and criminals, increasingly well-organised. The governmental presence was weak.

Many aspects of this situation are now being recreated on a much larger scale world-wide. Except we are not talking about the American city but the Global City, the world’s big cities are beginning to merge into one massive conurbation. The world’s business and political elite spend their lives jetting around the suburbs of this Global City in New York, Paris, London, Berlin, Rio de Janeiro, Shanghai, and so on.

It seems increasingly likely that we will learn more about how the world will be governed in the future by looking at how big cities are run than we will by remaining fixated on the nation-state and its institutions.

The Global City that most of us are soon going to inhabit will probably look in many respects like Chicago in the early twentieth century - but with twenty-first century technology.

At the global level, as in the American city, the leading operators come from big business. These business interests swim in a sea that is infested with large-scale criminal operators. The governmental presence is weak. So it was in Chicago.

As in the multi-cultural American city, the task globally is to find ways of avoiding violent conflict and encouraging peaceful relations between groups with many cultural inheritances.

In the long term, we need a sustained intellectual effort which does at the global level what the Chicago School did at the level of the city: in other words, an intellectual effort that allows us to describe and understand the global social ecology. Hopefully, this will allow us to have some influence on the developing public discourse at the global level.
A VISIT TO KUWAIT

Europe today is concerned mainly with itself. The Eastern enlargement, the reform of its internal structure and its agrarian policy attract most of the attention. On a larger, world-political scene, it could be a great error to leave the leading role in the redesign of the international relations after the end of the Cold War to the new hyperpower United States alone. For Europe, the restriction of attention to its Eastern neighbors means a neglect of her southern neighbors, of the Arabic-Islamic world in North Africa and the Near East (MENA-region). This region is seen in Europe mainly as a deliverer of petroleum, maybe also as a buyer of civilian and military industrial products and equipment. Apart from that it is rather neglected, or even seen patronizingly just as a crisis region of the Third World, where religious fundamentalists try to turn back the wheel of history, and where it seems unavoidable that authoritarian political regimes care for economic development and military security in the name of little educated populations, immature for modern democracy.

These facts and assumptions are inherently problematic: The Arabic-Islamic macroregion today shows a strong population dynamic, which together with the declining fertility rates in Europe and the deep developmental split between the two regions will increase the migration pressure in the future; the enlargement of the European Union toward the East can lead to a reduction of imports from the MENA-region; finally, with over 10 millions of Muslims, Islam has got a firm footing already within the European Union. Because of these reasons, a serious discussion between European values and those of the Islamic-world is overdue. For the rest, the latter is only one part of a worldwide Islamic community which today from Morocco to Indonesia comprises about 1.2 billion people.

Arising from these considerations, all efforts must be welcomed which can contribute to a better understanding of the problems of this important world region - in which are found not only the largest petroleum reserves of the world but also about 200 million people and the relations between this region and Europe. A very good occasion for this was a recent conference, organized by the young Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Kuwait (Dean: Dr. Ali Al-Tarann) at the Arab Planning Institute (Director: Dr. Essa M. Al-Ghazali) in Kuwait with the topic of 'The Social Sciences and the Development of Society' on April 10-12, 2001 (Organizer of the conference: Dr. Yaqoob Al-Kandari).

The aim of the conference was to bring together scientists from many different social scientific disciplines (sociology, political science, social psychology, educational sciences, geography) and from the Arabic and non-Arabic world. This aim was also very welcome in view of the fact that Arabic sociologists - despite a respectable scientific tradition in their country - are rather underrepresented at international conferences and in international research projects.

Kuwait defines itself today as an 'Arab Cultural Capital'; in the spirit of this aim, the new University was built on an extensive campus and with many modern buildings; and many scientists from other Arabic countries, notably Egypt, have been engaged as teachers. At the conference, social scientists from 21 countries (most of them from the Arabic world, but also from Great Britain and North America) presented around 60 papers to a broad spectrum of topics: on problems of security of Kuwait; on the psychosocial consequences of the Iraqi war regime in 1990/91; on the consequences of globalization and a compensating social policy in the Third World; on the cultural and political identity of Muslims and the Muslim states; on general problems of handicapped persons, of criminality, of the development of towns; on the role of women and fertility control in Kuwait and other Arabic states.

Kuwait City presents itself today as a modern, American-stamped large town, with broad boulevards and highways, with modern, architecturally attractive buildings. The percentage of foreigners in Kuwait is about 70% - a fact which does not show itself strongly in everyday life since many foreigners - due to their Arabic origin - are not very distinct from native Kuwaitis. Also, a rather strong control of immigration seems to take place (including comprehensive routine traffic controls, and a rather strong tying of the foreign workers to the firms employing them). Quite remarkable is the apparently seamless connection between tradition and modernity: an example was the opening of the conference by recitations from the Koran by a boy; the introduction of several lectures by a religious verse; and, above all, by the wearing of the traditional Arabic clothes by men and women (in this regard, there appears to exist no constraint, however, since many men and women also wore modern Western clothes and hair-styles). Contrary to these signs of a seemingly untouched tradition, there was the fact that among the conference speakers there were also many women, and the conference was opened by the Rector of the University, Dr. Fazaya Al-Kharafi, a woman.

From several lectures and conversations it turned out that the Kuwaitis today are quite proud of their state, and feel closely attached to it and to the Emir at its top. In one interesting lecture, the state of Kuwait was even presented as the prototype of a modern, globalized state. After the attack of Iraq in 1990, the elites and large parts of the population left the country. Since the Iraqis could not decipher the bank account codes, they were not able to get control of the financial assets of the state; after their expulsion by the US-led international army in 1991, the Kuwaitis were able to return and to take over the reconstruction of the country and their daily life rather quickly. The military liberation of Kuwait, thus, has not just led to the reinstallation of a traditional-authoritarian regime, even if there are pervasive inequalities between the native citizens and population (which are employed to 93% in the public service!), and the immigrants of the last decades. (In earlier times, most of these came from other Arabic countries; in recent times, foreign workers from Pakistan, India etc. are preferred since they show less inclination to become permanent residents). Nevertheless, it is a fact that Kuwait today is one of the few Arabic states which have a rather well-functioning democratic system (certainly with a rather strictly limited number of voters by Western standards); if female suffrage has not yet been realized (after the Emir introduced by a decree), it is because a conservative coalition in the parliament did not approve it.

In this and in many other regards, then, the image which is widespread in Europe about the Arabic-Islamic world hardly corresponds to reality. The mutual perceptions, stereotypes and prejudices between these two macro-regions were the topic of my own lecture on Social Science and the future of the relations between Europe and the Arabic-Islamic world. Insights and perspectives from an identity- and reality-based theory of society. I could show, by using data from text analyses of schoolbooks and mass media, and results from the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP), that in Europe today there is still the tendency to see the Islamic world as a monolithic block, characterized by under-development, social backwardness and political violence and aggressiveness. It is a fact, however, that religious intolerance and political militancy are typical only for extremist groups and a few dictatorial regimes, but are not shared by the populations at large. One-sided patterns of perception exist, however, also in the Arabic-Islamic world: On the one side, Europe and the West in general is condemned as postcolonialist and exploitative, on the other side it is also overestimated as a big consumer paradise; this, on its side might contribute to the barely controllable migration and refugee streams toward Europe today. From this point of view, it is regrettable that more social scientists from Europe have not participated in the conference. The Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Kuwait must be congratulated, however, for having taken this initiative and its successful realization (which included also a generous accommodation and boarding of the guest speakers from abroad).

Max Haller
NEWS FROM THE NETWORKS

What have our Research Networks been doing? Well, here are a couple of items from this lively field of ESA activity. One is about a new research network, the other is about a 'military encounter' in Southern Italy.

NEW RESEARCH NETWORK

Education in Europe: Difference and Diversity. Sociology of education has been part of the European Sociological Association since the second conference in Budapest in 1995, when a working group with six sessions took place. In each subsequent conference a call for papers has attracted a broad and interesting range of papers. Now sociology of education has become a Research Network. We have a good basis to work from, as a large number of education researchers have been involved in ESA as different conferences have always attracted slightly changing group of participants.

We are interested in a broadly based network, where different theoretical, conceptual, thematic and methodological approaches are welcome. The concern for difference and diversity demonstrates this on several levels. We note differences in the role of different levels of European educational systems, and at the same time there is concern for equalisation. It is important to consider the effects of marketisation, and the converging aspects of its effects on education and schooling. But marketisation is also constructed locally. We are interested in differences and diversities in the processes of marketisation.

Difference and diversity also refer to micro-level concerns. What practices and processes take place in the everyday life of educational institutions? How are education an schooling intertwined in the life histories of people? How is difference implicated in these? We conceptualise 'difference' as a hierarchical construct, whereby some differences are more valued and imbued with more power than others. We are interested in ways in which such hierarchies are constructed or challenged in educational processes. Diversity for means that people are not the same, but through diversity questions about social justice are asked. What kind of education and schooling can embrace diversity without hierarchical relations of power.

Such complex questions require a range of approaches. The value of a network is that researchers can develop ways of rethinking these questions through the opportunity of exploring a variety of ways of analysing them represented by research from different perspectives and different parts of Europe. We also welcome interdisciplinary contributions, where, for example, sociology of education is combined with cultural studies. We welcome topics on a range of dimensions of diversity, such as gender, ethnicity, social class, sexual orientation and embodiment.

Developing a broad forum for educational research also means that we are interested in a range of methodological approaches from macro-level analysis to small scale ethnographies. In order to discuss what is happening in education and schooling in Europe we need to discuss different ways in which processes and practices can be approached, and different locations they can be explored in.

The kinds of themes which have emerged in earlier conference sessions are: Education and transition in Europe; Social Justice and Democracy in Education; Making the Difference; Bridging the Difference; From Educational Attainment to Family Relations.

To summarise, our aim is to provide a forum for educational research, ranging from broad comparative research to everyday practices and processes in school and in further and higher education. We welcome different methodological and theoretical perspectives, and encourage participants to consider difference and diversity of education in Europe. Now that we have a network status, we have more opportunity to plan how to develop activities, for example between ESA conferences, and in terms of publication interests.

Tuula Gordon (Tuula.Gordon@uta.fi), Finland, Janet Holland (janet.holland@sbu.ac.uk), Britain, Henk Kleijer (kleijer@slrswv.edu.nl), The Netherlands, lidko Hubes (lidko.hubes@soci.bie.hu), Hungary.

MEDIA RESEARCHERS MEET THE MILITARY

The annual meeting of the Mass Media and Communications Research Network was held in Naples on December 1st and 2nd, 2000. We were the guests of the Faculty of Sociology at the University Federico II in Naples and also the Centro Alti Studi Militari, the Academy of the Italian Ministry of Defence.

Our topic was 'Communications and Crisis - The Media, Conflict And Society', and this embraced three themes: the media and environmental crisis, the media and political crisis, and the media and military crisis. Inevitably, research interest in the role of the media in Kosovo was a major topic of debate, and it was invaluable for the sociologists to hear at first hand accounts of the NATO communications strategy from the senior officers responsible for it. For once, instant research involved not only the data coming to us, but an opportunity to meet, eat and drink with primary sources in a beautiful location.

Members of the Network gave papers in all three topic areas, including keynote papers from Rosella Savarase and Philip Taylor, both extremely well received by the assembled audience of sociologists, three star NATO generals and military cadets. Papers were given by several other Network members, including Chas Critcher, Sophia Kostatzi-Whithlock, Andrew Hoskins, and Mirca Manendonk, and also by colleagues from Italian universities, including Guido Martinotti from Milan, and Alberto Abuzascele from Ljubljana, Rome. The full programme may be found on the network's website http://www.valt.helsinki.fi/esa/comdet.htm

The Network is very grateful to its Italian hosts for their hospitality and financial support (all attending members were accommodated in a beautifully located hotel on the bay, courtesy of our hosts). Daunting as it was on the second day, (held at the Academy), to be confronted with the massed ranks of khaki and medals, not normally the standard apparel of our academic audiences, it was a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable occasion, in which research could be discussed and assessed very much in context. We look forward to our meeting in Helsinki, details of which may also be found on the website at http://www.valt.helsinki.fi/esa/commun.htm

Peter Golding, Network Chair

LATEST NEWS ABOUT ESA PUBLICATIONS

Here is a report by the chair of the ESA Publication Committee on some relevant discussions and decisions of the Executive Committee which met in Prague on March 10-11, 2001, under its president Jiri Musil.

Max Haller writes: First, I may report that the Executive Committee highly appreciated the work that was done by the different editors and editorial boards of ESA, since the publications now are very well established. At the same time, it was felt (especially among the new members of the EC) that now there should be the time to rethink the general mission of ESA and try to find some ways so that it would not just be duplication of many other existing scientific associations but can develop a specific profile of its own. In this spirit, also the following decisions concerning the publications have been made:

1. Jurnal EUROPEAN SOCIETIES
   a) The two functions of 'editor-in-chief' and 'editor (articles)' shall be combined together in the future (that is, beginning with January 2002). This position shall be announced publicly in the next issue of our newsletter EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGIST.
   b) The function of the book review editors (now including 9 persons) was considered as being very important. Each important linguistic area/region shall be represented among them, taking in particular consideration the strong under-representation of South and East Europe among the authors. It was also suggested that ES should be more open to the publication of good articles published in one of the smaller European languages (after a translation and reworking of the articles).

2. Book Series STUDIES IN EUROPEAN SOCIETIES
   After the election of the new EC in Helsinki in August, a new group of book editors shall be elected. Probably one of the new members should come from the UK, so that the contacts with Routledge can be easy. It would probably be wise that one or two members of the present editorial group meet together with the new group when it is constituted. But, given the fact, that also Routledge has reviewers for the submitted manuscripts, the transition might not be a problem.

3. The Editorial Group of the Executive Committee
   It was complained that this group (now comprising 11 persons) in the past has been involved little in the operation of the publications. This shall be intensified in the future. Also this group shall be elected anew after the election of the new EC.

Finally, I would also thank all of you personally for your efforts, especially the Journal editor Jutta Allmendinger and Wolfgang Mayrhofer. At the same time, I would to express that I would be very grateful if you can help us to effect a smooth transition to the new active functionaries during the rest of this year.
OBITUARIES

Aage Battger Sørensen (1941-2001)

Professor of sociology at Harvard University, has recently died. He was born in Denmark where he received the first Master Degree offered in sociology at the University of Copenhagen in 1967. After his graduate studies with Jim Coleman, he received his Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University in 1971. He was an influential scholar in labour market, mobility and life course studies, and has held a number of prestigious posts both in the USA and Europe. He has also been a leading figure in the official evaluation of Scandinavian sociology. Since 1984 he has been at Harvard University and was the Chairman of the Sociology Department from 1984-1992. He is been very highly regarded as a scholar and as a person both by his colleagues and by his students. We express our deep condolence to Professor Anne Mette Sørensen, Aage’s wife and colleague, and to the rest of the family.

(Executive Committee of the European Sociological Association)

Aage was born on May 13th 1941 in Silkeborg in Denmark. After Gymnasium, he studied sociology at the University of Copenhagen, with, amongst others, Kaare Søvelastoga, the famous social mobility researcher to whom Aage might owe his initial interests in mathematical sociology and social stratification. After taking his Master of Science degree with a thesis on the social and geographical origins of university students, based on his M.A. thesis, he published an influential article in Sociology of Education on “Organizational Differentiation of Students and Educational Opportunity” in 1970, in which he made the important point that universal access to schools leads to internal tracks. This was the starting point of his persistent interest in the sociology of education.

In 1968, Aage left Denmark together with Annette (and 9 months old Jesper) to become a graduate student and research associate at the Center for the Social Organization of Schools at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. There he worked with Jim Coleman and Peter Rossi on the Johns Hopkins Social Accounts Project, one of the early quantitative life history studies. In 1971, he submitted his Ph.D. thesis on processes of career attainment, in which he developed mathematical models for intragenerational mobility. This evolved into a lifetime project, creating an entirely new field of research of a theory-driven sociology of labor markets and made a huge impact on the fields of social stratification. In contrast to the two main streams of intergenerational mobility studies and status attainment studies, he insisted - often as a solitary figure - that social inequalities are - besides the family and schools - generated in labor markets and that the varying positional structures of firms and labor markets strongly influence the distribution of life chances. He thus effectively merged the macrosociological concerns of stratification with the microeconomics of job-shift behavior and the applications of event history analysis. In moving beyond mere structuralist or statistical accounting modes of analysis towards an action-theory based microfoundation of social processes, Aage was far ahead of his time, particularly as he did not lose sight of their organizational and institutional contexts.

Between 1971 and 1984, Aage Sørensen’s own splendid career developed, as he advanced from assistant to full professor and department chair at the University of Wisconsin in Madison - with a brief interlude at the University of Oslo. From 1984 until his death, Aage served as professor of sociology here at Harvard and, as chair, was charged with restructuring the department. Aage never gave up the academic responsibilities he cherished; the most: teaching and mentoring students, doing empirical research and crafting formal models and theoretical arguments, keeping in touch with his former graduate students. He was increasingly invited to assume institutional responsibilities, however. Among many other assignments, he was distinguished chair of two of the nation’s leading departments - chair of the committees evaluating Danish, Norwegian and Swedish social science institutions and a member of the Board of Directors of the Danish National Science Foundation. He clearly enjoyed this kind of work and took it very seriously.

One of the very last pieces Aage wrote was a biographical article on Jim Coleman, his graduate advisor from Johns Hopkins, for the new International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences. In this, he comments on the ambivalent attitude the profession held vis-à-vis Jim Coleman, because of the latter’s unwillingness to assume just one of the three main roles sociologists usually choose from: to specialize in theorist, methodologist or researcher. Although Aage was wise enough not to stretch the limits of criticism, he was far too critical of Jim Coleman, his observation also holds true for him. He started his professional career with a piece of empirical research on the social and geographical origins of the Danish student body. He then did empirical research in the fields of education, stratification and labor markets; he specialized in mathematical models; made detours into historical sociology and - in the last years - made important contributions to general theory with his theory.

of rent-producing assets as mechanisms for generating social inequalities. He was both a scientist and an intellectual with a keen sense of politics and an astounding historical condition. He transformed not least the intellectual tensions resulting from his own biographical experiences in two quite distinctive and contrasting socio-political and cultural contexts - American liberalism and the Scandinavian welfare states - into outstanding and exemplary social science. In his brilliant article on the origins of the Danish welfare state, “On Kings, Pietism and Rent-seeking in Scandinavian Welfare States”, this can be seen in a nutshell.

Since Denmark appears there not only with her former North German territories, but also in connection to Prussian absolutism and Lutheran Pietism, this brings me to Aage’s German connection. Aage played an important role for the social sciences in Germany and for my own research group, which is involved in the German Life History Study. In an academic context, he first came to Germany as a contributor to MASO, the yearly mathematical sociology group meetings, in the middle of the seventies. He later came to Mannheim for a longer visit, whilst I was director of ZUMA, the national German survey research center. For many years he served as a member of the scientific council of ZUMA. His ZUMA visit was consequential in several respects. It boosted the German Life History Study, which was just beginning, and it triggered the comparative life history study on Germany, Norway and the US by Jutta Allmendinger. Another consequence was the specific development of Bernd Wegener’s prestige scale, which relied upon Aage Sørensen’s theory and logic of the distribution positions in status attainment processes.

From 1984 to 1992, Aage served as a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Max Planck Institute for Human Development and Education in Berlin, where he spent several summers as a visiting scientist at my Center. Together with Mette, he became an influential critic and mentor, not only to myself, but also to many of the students and research associates of the German Life History Group. For this we owe him our deep gratitude.

(Extract from eulogy for Aage Sørensen presented at the Memorial Gathering at University Hall, Harvard University, May 12th, 2001 by Prof. Dr. Karl Ulrich Mayer, Max Planck Institute for Human Development Berlin)

continued...
Joachim Israel (1920-2001) was Scandinavia's most colorful sociologist. Born in Germany, he fled the oncoming Nazi Holocaust in 1938, landing in Sweden on the fateful evening of September 30, the eve of the infamous Munich Agreement. The experience of being a Jew in Germany, outcast and subordinated, shaped his entire life. Joachim Israel never stopped fighting for the rights of the oppressed, from Vietnamese peasants to European gypsies. Short in stature, he was a giant when it came to the fighting for human rights. Once he had his teeth into an issue or an opponent, he never let go. He was a man you wanted on your side; that side, was, of course, the right side.

Joachim Israel always said he never intended to become an academic. Sweden was to be a stopover on the way to Palestine. As so often happens when history and biography intertwine, that stopover became a lifetime. After four years of living the life of a political refugee, Israel entered Swedish society through political activism. His budding Zionism connected him to the international socialist movement and eventually to social democracy. It was here he found a home, not so much as a member, but rather as a free-floating partisan intellectual, sometimes welcomed by the party-elite, sometimes not. The socialist movement (in the 1960-70s this would include a fling with Maoism) gave meaning to his life, not in the sense of career, for Joachim Israel was anything but a career-oriented opportunist. Rather, his political activism exemplified the struggle for human dignity and recognition even when he could barely name it as such as in the case of Cambodia and Maoist-China. On one issue there could be no compromise: all human beings had the fundamental right to subjectivity, to be heard, and taken seriously. As a sociologist, Israel is probably best known for his work on alienation, especially the book Alienation from Marx to Modern Sociology, which was one of the first to offer English-speaking academics an assessment of that concept. I think his personal favorite, however, was The Language of Dialectics and the Dialectics of Language, in which he sought epistemological grounding for scientific practice in everyday language. This book was controversial to say the least, and it was this, in part, which he most enjoyed. In Scandinavia, he is probably better known for his books on social psychology, of which only The Context of Social Psychology: A Critical Assessment appears in English. In addition, Israel was noted for his theories of sexuality and child-rearing and for a book on Martin Buber. He also authored many polemical works and was very active in Swedish political debate. For the students, Israel's outstanding achievement at the time lay in his pointing out a role for sociology as a critical intellectual endeavour, rather than the socio-technocratic handmaiden of political dominion.

His outstanding academic career (professorships in sociology at Espoo, Uppsala, and numerous academic books and articles) was in some ways, however, a side light to his role as partisan intellectual. It was his political activism that Joachim was most proud of, alongside his family and lively social life. It is for this that we will be remembered, long after academic fashion has turned in other directions.

Ron Eyerman, Department of Sociology, Uppsala University

Books

The Compassionate Temperament: Care And Cruelty In Modern Society: Series: Postmodern Social Futures, by Natan Sznaider.

Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc: $32.95 Paper 0-8476-9556-5 December 2000 144pp, $60.00 Cloth 0-8476-9557-7 December 2000 144pp

The argument of this book is that it is in the nature of modernity to foster compassion. Most critics tend to think of modernity as corrosive of moral sentiments. They see clearly the way in which modernity breaks down older social bonds, but they are much less attentive to the ways in which it builds new ones. This book offers an historically informed corrective to this common view.

Sznaider demonstrates that compassion, understood as the organized campaign to lessen the suffering of strangers, is a distinctly modern form of morality. It played an important role in the rise of modern society, and it continues to play an important role today. And when waves of compassion break out into demands for political action, those demands need to be understood rather than criticized as excuses or inefficacies. Incorporating and critiquing the work of Arendt, Foucault, and other social theorists, this book is both erudite and historically rich—sure to be both controversial and influential among those who debate modernity, morality, and social justice.

About The Author

Natan Sznaider is Senior Lecturer at the Academic College of Tel-Aviv-Yaffo in Tel-Aviv, Israel.

Biographies And The Division Of Europe. Experience, Action, And Change On The 'Eastern Side' edited by Roswitha Breckner, Dekorah Katskin-Fishman and Ingrid Miethe

Leslie + Budrich, Opladen: 2000. 393 pages. paperback. GB - DM62; $49.95 US.

ISBN 3-8100-2887-8

The challenge taken on in this book is to confront a division that separated Europe by an Iron Curtain for over 40 years. The contributions deal with the historical background of this division and its impact on Eastern European biographies. Empirical and theoretical investigations of transformations in people's lives since 1989 are highlighted relating to Hungary, Poland, Russia, Romania, Yugoslavia, as well as the German Democratic Republic. The historical period covered by the articles in this book extends from the Soviet Revolution of 1917 to the present.


Environmental Politics In Southern Europe: Actors, Institutions And Discourses in A Europeanising Society by Klaus Eder and Maria Kousis (Eds.), Kluwer Academic Publishers, Hard back, 410 pp.

Breadthline Europe: The Measurement Of Poverty. Edited by David Gordon, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol and Peter Townsend, London School of Economics. "Breadthline Europe" is the first book to examine poverty in Europe within the international framework agreed at the 1995 World Summit on Social Development. Its aim is to provide a scientific and international basis for the analysis and reduction of poverty.

With contributions from leading European poverty researchers, it demonstrates that there is far more important research into the problem of poverty going on in many European countries than international agencies and national governments admit or even realise. Main themes are: - the need for a scientific poverty line; - the need for better theories distinguishing between poverty and social exclusion; - the need for better international social policy and for better policy-related analyses of poverty.

For further details, a full list of contents and to view the press release, please visit The Policy Press web site at: www.policypress.org.uk. The Guardian article can be viewed on-line at: http://www.guardian.co.uk/ArchiveArticle0,4273,4148103,00.html

Books Continued...
Open Scotland? offers an insight to the world of lobbyists, journalists and spin doctors, revealing the motivations behind the news stories in Scottish politics today.

Philip Schlesinger is Professor and Director of Stirling Media Research Institute; David Miller and William Dixon are members of Stirling Media Research Institute. The authors all work in the Department of Film and Media Studies at the University of Stirling.

PUBL. DATE: March 2001, EXTENT: 256pp
FORMAT: 234x156mm, CATEGORY: Scottish Politics/Media

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Disability and the Life Course: Global Perspectives

The book analyzes the institutional development and economic performance of 20 OECD countries for 1970-1998 on the basis of a comprehensive set of measures and data on the following dimensions: the structure of unions and employer associations (i.e. domains, centralization, membership density, sectoral membership composition, and participation in public policy); the system of wage bargaining (i.e. centralization, coordination mechanisms, procedural and substantive state intervention, and collective bargaining coverage).

Analysis is divided into five main parts:
(I) the theoretical and methodological framework of analysis;
(II) the organization of interests: patterns and composition, and participation in public policy;
(III) wage regulation and bargaining;
(IV) labor relations and economic performance;
(V) instead of convergence: neoliberalism and the Life course explores the global experience of disability using a novel life course approach. The book explores how disabling societies impact on disabled people's life experiences, and highlights the ways in which disabled people have acted to take more control over their own lives. It provides a unique combination of analysis, policy issues and autobiography, offering the reader a rare opportunity to make links between the theoretical, the political and the personal in a single volume. The material is set in a truly international context, with contributions from thirteen different countries bringing together established and emerging writers, both disabled and non-disabled. The book bridges some important gaps in the existing disability literature by including issues relevant to disabled people of all ages and with different kinds of impairments and also by offering a unique analysis of the relationship between disability and generation in a changing world.

Vasso Kantzara writes: the following book is my Ph.D thesis which I defended successfully last February and published myself in a limited number of issues.


This PhD Thesis studies the 'characteristics' that play a role when teachers grant respect and esteem to a colleague - 'characteristics' such as age, subject specialism, subject knowledge and gender. In addition, the quality of teachers' work performance and skills are subject to an evaluation process that takes into consideration the above mentioned 'characteristics' in class teaching but especially outside class, and more unconscious than conscious.

The most important finding of this study is that prestige is the outcome of a complex evaluation logic. Furthermore, this logic is characterised by some principles of reasoning, such as trivialising and compensating. A good work performance can be trivialised, when a colleague thinks that the teacher in question had other motives than the performance itself, for instance if a teacher is seen to want to distinguish him/herself and place him/herself above others while all teachers are in principle equal. A lack of skill, like having a good contact with the pupils, can be compensated if a teacher organizes an additional lesson for them, showing that s/he really cares for their learning.

Thus, it does not suffice to add valuable 'characteristics' if a teacher wants to be bestowed with a high value as prestige symbolizes. Higher work performance and skills have to meet various criteria and conditions that on top of this are not simple, uniform or unchallenged, but depend very much on the context. This also shows that prestige arises from the interaction between persons.

The research was conducted in Greece and employs qualitative research methods. Though limited by the context, the study nonetheless furnishes important insights for research in other countries and/or professions.

This (sociological) study is interesting for students and researchers in the field of women's/gender studies, sociology, sociology of distinctions, stratification, professions and identity, as well as sociology of education, and social psychology of identity.

You may order this book from the author at Professor Leydesdorff writes: Dear colleagues, I made a second edition of my book entitled "The Challenge of Scientometrics: The development, measurement, and self-organization of scientific communications" (Leiden, 1995) available at http://www.upslib.com/books/leydesdorff-sci.htm. The second edition is enlarged with a section about technological trajectories, but not essentially different from the first. The study provides mainly a comprehensive probabilistic entropy measures for studying complex developments in networks, for example, of words and citations. Some applications (e.g., the use of indicators for the prediction) are further elaborated.

Loet Leydesdorff.
Science & Technology Dynamics,
University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam School of Communications Research (ASCoR), Oude Hoogstraat 24, 1012 CE Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Tel: +31-20-525 6598; Fax: +31-20-525 3681

http://www.leydesdorff.net
mailto:loet@leydesdorff.net
http://www.leydesdorff.net/

See also: "A Sociological Theory of Communication: The Self-Organization of the Knowledge-Based Society" at http://www.upslib.com/books/leydesdorff.htm
Noticeboard - Conferences, web-sites, new ventures

The 34th Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis and Collection 7 July-17 August 2001

This year's Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis and Collection will offer over 50 one and two-week introductory, intermediate and advanced courses on topics which include: social survey design and analysis, sampling, regression, multilevel analysis, time series analysis, correspondence analysis, log linear analysis, latent class analysis, discourse analysis, game theory, rational choice, social theory, data visualisation and data mining, social network analysis, maximum likelihood estimation and limited dependent variables, structural equation models, qualitative data analysis, focus groups, interviewing, participant observation, content analysis, SPSS, Amos, Lisrel, British Household Panel Survey, time budget collection and Analysis and comparative policy analysis.

New courses this year are: Logit, Probit and Other Generalised Models, Introduction to Geographical Information Systems, Social-legal Research Methods, Advanced Social Network Analysis, Dimensional Analysis, and Evaluation Analysis.

There will be a two-week 'data confrontation' workshop on "National and International Crime victimization Surveys".

A small number of ESRC bursaries are available to participants from British academic institutions.

For further details see URL: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/methods> or e-mail: summer@essex.ac.uk

or write to The Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis and Collection, University of Essex, Colchester, Essex CO4 3SQ, United Kingdom

Fax (international) 44-1206-873598 (UK/Eire) 01206-873598

or Telephone (international) 44-1206-872502 (UK/Eire) 01206-872502.

Launch Of The Second Issue Of Organdi Quarterly.

An international journal of social sciences and contemporary issues, organdi is published quarterly in English and French including peer reviewed articles, special issues, interviews, cultural reviews, letters to the editor and online exhibitions. Body and civilization is February 2001's special issue. It includes interviews and articles by Milan Zafirovski, Mari Anne Carswell & Kristi Magraw, Anna Elsatchiadou-Adams, Bruno Rouers, Brian Green, Arnaud Baublot and Elie Daring, and an online exhibition by Stella Eustathiasidou.

We are calling for papers and are encouraging you to take part in the next issue: 3rd issue (June 2001): 'Utopia'.


MPhil In Ethnic And Racial Studies

Department Of Sociology, University Of Dublin, Trinity College.

Applications are invited for a 12-month postgraduate degree in Ethnic and Racial Studies.

Topics covered: 'Race' and ethnicity - theoretical concepts; Researching 'race' and ethnicity; Language, ethnicity and expressive culture; Migration and population movement; Culture, colonialism and Irishness; Gender and ethnicity. Managing cultural diversity? Language and society in Ireland; International issues and human rights; Reading race'. In addition to course work, students are required to submit a dissertation.

Applicants should hold a good first degree in the social sciences or have a social sciences component in their first degree. The programme is ideally suited to public and voluntary sector workers and has attracted a diverse international student body.

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Dr Ronit Lentin, Course co-ordinator, Department of Sociology, Trinity College, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Tel: 353 1 608 2766. Email: rrlentin@tcd.ie

Application forms are available from:

The Graduate Admissions Office, Trinity College, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Tel: 353 1 608 2182. Email: jryan@tcd.ie


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Regeneration Or Decline? The British Countryside Between The two World Wars

A conference organised by the Interwar Rural History Research Group

Dartington Hall, Devon. 9/10 January 2002

The interwar years have traditionally been seen as a period of almost unmitigated gloom in the British countryside. After the brief intermission of the First World War, the downturns trend of farm product prices that had begun in the 1870s continued, reaching hitherto unplumbed depths after the Wall Street Crash. Neither Conservative, Labour nor National governments gave effective support to agriculture, the 'great betrayal' of the report of the 1920 Agriculture Act ushered in two decades of neglect. Farmers responded by retrenching on costs, allowing less fertile arable fields to 'bumble down' to weed-choked waste and making hundreds of thousands of farmworkers redundant. Rural Britain became a 'landscape without figures' in an almost literal sense. Output stagnated or even fell and from a socio-cultural point of view, the life went out of the countryside.

But is this interpretative framework adequate? Very little research has actually been done on rural Britain between 1918 and 1939 until recently, but now a new generation of scholars is challenging the traditional account. Much of the most exciting work has been done by non-historians, notably geographers, literary and cultural critics and sociologists, although historians are now also beginning to turn their attention to the interwar countryside. Research on landscape and on the cultural meanings with which the countryside was invested in these years has demonstrated the pivotal but ambiguous connection between rurality and national identity. At the same time work on neglected dimensions of interwar rural culture such as agricultural education for women or the early organic movement has indicated hitherto unsuspected areas of vitality in rural society in the 1920s and 1930s. Research currently in progress even seems set to challenge the foundation-stone of the narrative of depression -- the supposition that agricultural output declined between the wars.

With so many fresh perspectives being opened up by current research, it seems timely to arrange a conference on the interwar countryside. This will be the first conference of the recently-formed Interwar Rural History Research Group. We are delighted that the conference will take place at Dartington Hall - highly appropriate in view of the leading role played by Dartington in the analysis of rural decline and the development of some of the most innovative interwar proposals for rural regeneration. Conference delegates will have the opportunity to lock round Dartington's extensive archives and consult the database of archive contents.

Proposals for papers, accompanied by an abstract of up to 300 words, are welcomed on any aspect of the British countryside between the wars. Papers which focus on the question of decline versus regeneration (whether adopting a revisionist stance or reasserting the traditional framework) will be particularly welcome.

Proposals and abstracts should be sent by 31 July 2001 to:

Lynne Thompson, Department of Lifelong Learning, University of Deter, St Luke's Campus, Clewshore Road, Exeter EX1 2UR

Tel: 01392 262828

Email: L.Thompson@ex.ac.uk

Or: Paul Brassley, Seale-Hayne Faculty, University of Plymouth, Newton Abbot

TQ12 6NG

Tel: 01626 325668

Email: pbrassley@plymouth.ac.uk

The Cathie Marsh Centre For Census And Survey Research At The University Of Manchester

has launched its new, enhanced Short Course Programme for 2001/2002. The programme provides a range of PC-based courses in research design and analysis, all with a practical emphasis and applied focus and is structured so that participants may either select an individual
course which meets their needs, or build up their expertise through a portfolio of courses. The course fee includes documentation and lunch and is discounted for those from educational institutions. Contact Kate Thomas at kate.thomas@man.ac.uk or on 0161 275 4736 for a course leaflet and booking form or see details of individual courses and book online on the CCSR website at http://lesl1.man.ac.uk/ccsr/courses/shorthome.htm

The Journal of Classical Sociology focuses on international contributions to the classical tradition. The journal will elucidate the origins of sociology and also demonstrate how the classical tradition renews the sociological imagination in the present day. Edited by Bryan S Turner at the University of Cambridge (UK) and John O'Neill at York University (Toronto, Canada), the journal will be a 'critical but constructive reflection on the roots and formation of sociology from the Enlightenment to the twenty first century'. The journal encourages submission of papers from all the relevant social and cultural disciplines and should include a methodological or textual or empirical research focus.

Issue 1, Volume 1 (March 2001) includes the following articles: Was Max Weber a Selectionist in Spite of Himself? W G Runciman; Durkheim's Theory of Practice: Concrete Practice vs. Representation at the Foundation of Reason Anne Warfield; Rawls Metaphors as Principles of 'Virtue': Seeing Marx Differently José Lopez. The Disavowal of the Social in the American Reception of Durkheim Ken Morrison; Weber's Inaugural Lecture and Its Place in his Sociology Jack M Barbalet; The Gift of Life: The Sociology of Religion in Persons' Late Work Hans Joas.

VISITING INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP in social research methods

The Institute of Social Research at the University of Surrey, Guildford, United Kingdom, has established a Visiting International Fellowship to foster the development of sociological research methods. Between one and three Fellowships are awarded by competition each year. The awards are open to those who would value the opportunity to advance methodological understanding, for example by reflecting on methods used in previous empirical research, by validating existing or new methodological procedures, or by reviewing and synthesizing methodological approaches. 'Methods' may be interpreted widely, to include, for example, statistical techniques and conversation and discourse analysis. An honorarium of £2,000 will be paid (it is expected that award-holders will normally be on paid leave of absence from their employment). Award holders will be expected to pay their own travel costs to Guildford and their accommodation and subsistence for the duration of their award, which should be for one or more visits with a duration of at least one month in total. Visiting International Fellows will become honorary Research Fellows of the University and be entitled to use the University Library and make use of University facilities. The holder is usually permanently resident outside the United Kingdom.

The Institute of Social Research of the Department of Sociology at Surrey provides research expertise and research methods for the application of social research to contemporary society. It promotes high methodological standards and new developments in methodology for the social science research community. The Institute is home of the CCSR, the ESPRC supported centre for Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis Software, well known for its work on the secondary analysis of large data sets, for discourse and conversation analysis, for work on online research methods, and for an interest in CAPI documentation issues, and the Social Survey Question Bank associated with CASS, the ESRC Centre for Applied Social Surveys, is located here. Other methodological specialties include the computer simulation of social phenomena and cross-national comparison.

Applications should be sent to Kathy Lilley, Administrator, Institute of Social Research, Department of Sociology, University of Surrey Guildford, GU2 7XH, UK

Tel: +44(0)1483 259460 Fax: +44(0)1483 259551 Email: isr@soc.surrey.ac.uk

Applications must be received by 28th September 2001 for visits during the calendar year 2002. Applications should describe in no more than 500 words the activity to be carried out during the Fellowship and should be accompanied by a brief curriculum vitae and the names, postal address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address of two referees. Applicants may find it helpful to contact the Institute to discuss their application before submitting it. Collaborative research with members of the Institute is especially welcome.

More information about the International Fellowship, the Institute of Social Research and the Department of Sociology at the University of Surrey is available on our website http://www.soc.surrey.ac.uk/.

Institute of Social Research Department of Sociology, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 7XH, UK

Joint Directors: Professor Nigel Fielding and Professor Roger Tarling

Associate Director: Professor Martin Bulmer

Institute Administrator: Ms Kathy Lilley

Tel: +44(0)1483 259460 Fax: +44(0)1483 259551

Email: isr@soc.surrey.ac.uk

Dr Jane Fielding, Lecturer in Quantitative Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 7XH, UK

Tel: 01483 259451 Fax: 01483 259551

http://www.soc.surrey.ac.uk/uss/

International Conference - Progressing Gender Relations in Europe, Questions of Equality in Paid and Unpaid Work, 6-7 September 2001, University of Salford, Manchester, UK

Dr. Abigail Gregory writes: I am writing to draw your attention to this international conference I am co-organising with Jan Windebank at the Centre for Gender Studies in Europe (University of Sheffield).

The imbalance between women's increased participation in the labour market over the past thirty years, on the one hand, and the relative lack of change in the division of unpaid work between men and women, on the other, is a central issue in the debate over the extent to which European countries have witnessed "progress" in gender relations over this period. This conference aims to bring together researchers and policy-makers from across Europe to discuss the relationship between gender equality in paid and unpaid work. There will be presentations of women's position vis-à-vis paid and unpaid work in specific European nations, and papers highlighting the gendered division of work and employment across the EU. Alongside these will be sessions addressing Europe-wide issues of policy, both evaluating national and European policy to date and discussing possible future avenues regarding women's paid and unpaid work. Speakers include: Lynne Berry (EOC), Julia Brannen, Ulla Björnberg (Sweden), Jet Bussemaker (Netherlands), Rosemary Crompton, Anneke van Dorrme-Huiskes (Netherlands), Jeanne Fagnani (France), Ute Gerhard (Germany), Amaug Leira (Norway), Susan Lewis, Ruth Lister and Sylvia Walby. The event promises to be very stimulating. I hope we will have the pleasure of meeting you at the conference.

For further information and a registration form, please contact: Wendy Dodgson, European Studies Research Institute, University of Salford, Salford, Greater Manchester M5 4WT, UK. Tel: +44 (0)161 295 4852 Email: w.a.dodgson@salford.ac.uk

Closing Date for Registration: Friday 17th August 2001

Dr. Abigail Gregory, Head of French and member of the European Studies Research Institute, University of Salford, M5 4WT

Heinz-Herbert Noll writes: I would like to draw your attention to the EuroReport-Project, funded by the European Commission up to the end of August 2001 and the development of a European System of Social Indicators as part of this project. This work may be relevant to those of you who are interested in social reporting and / or looking for comparative empirical information on the social situation and social change within our European Societies.

Detailed information about the EuroReporting-Project can be found at the following website: http://www.gesis.org/en/socialmonitoring/socialindicators/EU_Reporting/index.htm

More information on the European System of Social Indicators is available at this website:
**Noticeboard - Conferences, web-sites, new ventures**

http://www.gesis.org/en/social_monitoring/social_indicators/EU_Reporting/usi.htm

Here you'll find: topic-related and/or country-related links to other sites (e.g. statistical offices, research institutes, other data sources etc.) offering information relevant for social reporting; a literature data base; the Working-Paper-Series of the project in PDF available for download (click publications); information on the conceptual framework of the European System of Social Indicators (click indicators); time series data for 22 countries (20 European countries + Japan + U.S.) and 162 indicators for the life domain "Labour Market and Working Conditions" (the first of 14 life domains finalized so far) (click indicators)

Dr. Helnz-Herbert Noil, Abteilungsleiter Soziale Indikatoren (Director Social Indicators), Department ZUMA, Postfach 122155, D-68072 Mannheim (Germany)

Phone: +49-621-1264-241; Fax: +49-621-1264-182/100

Email: noil@zima-mannheim.de

http://www.gesis.org/Dauerbeobachtung/-/Sozialindikatoren/


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**Postmodern Practices: MediaTraces - DiscourseBodies - TradeMarx**

4th Interdisciplinary, International (post)graduate conference on Postmodernism at the University of Erlangen/Nuremberg (Bavaria, Germany) November 23rd - 25th, 2001

Keynote address: Terry Eagleton (invited)

The Departments of Sociology, Political Sciences and American Literature invite young scholars (from graduate students to assistant professors) to participate in the 4th Interdisciplinary, International (post)graduate conference at Erlangen University (Germany).

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- postmodern criticism - criticizing the Postmodern
- postmodern politics - political postmodernism
- Marxism and the Postmodern
- language and power - truth as difference; alterity as intercultural practice
- strategies of identity in the simulacrum
- feminism and queer theory
- re-presentation and the politics of the body: psychoanalysis and phallocratisation as surplus value; difference as a symptom; transnational media rhizomes; is a commodity; the sublime and the affordable; p-commerce: utilizing the postmodern
- the true, the beautiful and the goods - the end of philosophy and; ethics? postanalytical philosophy vs deconstruction
- in the history of ideas: science fiction and postmodern utopias; historiography; narrations and biography
- and individual emotion are constructed and move on to determine sociability

Deadline for paper proposals: 15th September, 2001 (other participants may register till November 20th). Please register on our online submission form [http://www.gradnet.de](http://www.gradnet.de)

Each panel will consist of three to five speakers and will last two to two and a half hours.

Speaking time for each paper is approximately 12 minutes, which permits ample time for discussion after the delivery of the papers.

Contributions of 3 to 5 pages from the delegates will be posted on our web page in order to facilitate circulation and scholarly exchange.

The deadline for the submission of these short contributions is 15th October, 2001.

Email (Thomas Deuerlter or Michael Fitz) proposals as well as short contributions to: 2001@gradnet.de

Further information (registration form, program etc.) is available on our web page: [http://www.gradnet.de](http://www.gradnet.de)

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Claudia or Mark: info@gradnet.de

Organizers: Alexandra Boehm (Comparative Literature), Thomas Deuerlter (Sociology), Michael Fitz (Film and Theatre studies), Claudia Groitsch (Sociology), Mark Schoenleben (Philosophy)

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**American Association Of University Women (AAUW) International Fellowships**

Women graduate students from countries outside the United States are invited to apply for a $16,860 fellowship from the AAUW Educational Foundation for study or research in the United States. International Fellowships are available to women who are not American citizens or permanent residents. Of the 47 fellowships awarded, six are available to members of the International Federation of University Women for graduate study in a country other than their own.

Award support: Full-time graduate or postgraduate study in all disciplines for one year, and studies important to changing the lives of women and girls. The Foundation also awards several annual Home Country Project Grants ($5,000-$7,000 each). These grants support community-based projects designed to improve the lives of women and girls in a fellow's home country. Eligible Foundation International Fellowship recipients will receive further information on the program.


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**Nigel Gilbert writes:** The web version of Social Research Update is now published, Issue 31 is on "Translating from one language to another" and is by Marie Birbili. She writes that:

Collecting data in one language and presenting the findings in another involves researchers taking translation-related decisions that have a direct impact on the validity of the research and its report. Factors which affect the quality of translation in social research include: the linguistic competence of the translator/s, the translator's knowledge of the culture of the people under study; the autobiography of those involved in the translation; and the circumstances in which the translation takes place.

There is a need for social researchers who have to translate data from one language to another to be explicit in describing their choices and decisions, translation procedures and the resources used. 

This issue and all previous issues can be found at: [http://www.soc.surrey.ac.uk/sru/](http://www.soc.surrey.ac.uk/sru/)

Professor Nigel Gilbert, FEng, ACSS, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Sociology, University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 7XH, UK, +44 (0)1483 295173:

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**Call for papers: International Society for the Study of European Ideas ISSEI, VIII International Conference, 22 - 27 July, 2002, Aberystwyth, Wales, UK**

**Workshop on Emotion and Society**

This workshop will discuss the relation between emotion and the construction of social relationships. It will review important authors in social science (sociology and anthropology) such as Norbert Elias, Weber and Marcel Mauss about the construction of individuals into society, and how the interface between social emotion and individual emotion are constructed and move on to determine sociability.

If you are interested in presenting a paper at this workshop, please contact the workshop chair:

Mauro Guilherme Pinheiro Koury, Rua General Joaquim Nabuco, 154, CEP 50070-270, Recife, Pernambuco, Brasil.

E-mail: koury@netpe.com.br

ISSEI Home Page: [http://www.aber.ac.uk/hts/issei2002](http://www.aber.ac.uk/hts/issei2002)

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**Publication details:**

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**Editors:**

- Professor Nigel Gilbert, FEng, ACSS, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Sociology, University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 7XH, UK, +44 (0)1483 295173
- Professor Mauro Guilherme Pinheiro Koury, Rua General Joaquim Nabuco, 154, CEP 50070-270, Recife, Pernambuco, Brasil.
- E-mail: koury@netpe.com.br

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**Contact:**

Organizers: Alexandra Boehm (Comparative Literature), Thomas Deuerlter (Sociology), Michael Fitz (Film and Theatre studies), Claudia Groitsch (Sociology), Mark Schoenleben (Philosophy)

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**Registration:**

[http://www.gradnet.de](http://www.gradnet.de)

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**Further information:**

Claudia or Mark: info@gradnet.de

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**Email:**

noll@zuma-mannheim.de

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**Phone:**

(+49) 621-1264-241; Fax: (+49) 621-1264-182/100

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**Web page:**

[http://www.gesis.org/Gradnet/](http://www.gesis.org/Gradnet/)

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**Conference details:**

**Location:**

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES EURAS, 4th Conference, 22 - 27 August, 2002, Brussels, Belgium

**Theme:**

The role of the city in the 21st Century: Between borders and borders

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**On-line submission form:**

[http://www.gradnet.de](http://www.gradnet.de)
Where will the SIXTH conference of the European Sociological Association take place in 2003?

Will it be in sunny *****?
Or historic **********?
Or, perhaps, futuristic *****?

We don’t know yet – but maybe you have a suggestion. If so, we want to hear from you. See below.

ESA invites expressions of interest from potential local organisers of the sixth ESA Conference in 2003 (the one after Helsinki). If you are interested and would like to discuss the matter further, please get in touch as soon as possible and, in any case, by the end of July.

Send an e-mail to Jantine van Gogh at jvangogh@siswo.uva.nl.
If you want to ‘talk it over’, e-mail Jiri Musil, ESA President at ceu.prague@ecn.cz.
**Membership Form**

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  - Visa
  - Mastercard

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The Netherlands

**Current Two Year Membership Fees**

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**For members from countries in Central and Eastern Europe, and from Turkey:**

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**Virtual ESA**

The ESA maintains a discussion list/bulletin board supported by the MAILBASE system at Newcastle University, UK. To join the discussion group, send the following commands to:

mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk
join european-sociologist
yourfirstname yourlastname
send user-guide

The ESA also maintains pages on the WorldWideWeb. Their entry-level address is:

http://www.valt.helsfini.fi/esa

In order to facilitate communication between the Executive of the ESA and its members, an email list for the Executive Committee has been created. ESA members or others wishing to bring items to the attention of the Executive Committee are invited to ‘post’ directly to this list at:

esa-exec@mailbase.ac.uk

The ESA Secretariat is at SISWO, the Dutch social science support organisation. General enquiries go to the following address:

Secretariat ESA
Jantine van Gogh
Plantage Muidergracht 4
NL-1018 Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Tel: +31 20 527 0646
Fax: +31 20 622 9430
E-mail: esa@siswo.uva.nl

**Research Networks**

Enquiries about ESA research Networks should be directed to the ESA secretariat or to the Chair of the Committee of Research Networks:

Yasemin Soysal
Department of Sociology
University of Essex
Colchester, UK

E-mail: soysal@essex.ac.uk

**Getting in touch with the ESA**

The ESA Secretariat is at SISWO, the Dutch social science support organisation. General enquiries go to the following address:

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Jantine van Gogh
Plantage Muidergracht 4
NL-1018 Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Tel: +31 20 527 0646
Fax: +31 20 622 9430
E-mail: esa@siswo.uva.nl

**Personal Details**

Full Name ____________________________

Position/Title __________________________

Institution ____________________________

Mailing Address _______________________

Postal Code __________________________

City __________________________

Country __________________________

Tel: __________________________

Fax: __________________________

E-mail: __________________________

Please return this completed form to:

Jantine van Gogh
European Sociological Association
c/o SISWO
Plantage Muidergracht 4
NL 1018 TV Amsterdam
The Netherlands