

EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION  
Research Network 07 Sociology of Culture

REPORT 2015-2017

Joost van Loon and Anna-Mari Almila<sup>1</sup>

Research Network 07, Sociology of Culture, was founded on the initiative of Anna Lisa Tota from the University of Roma III and with the support of many colleagues from many different countries in 2005. At its first business meeting at the 7th ESA Conference in Torun, Rudi Laermans (Catholic University of Leuven) was elected as chair, Anna Lisa Tota as vice-chair and Tia de Nora (University of Exeter), Thomas S. Eberle (University of St Gallen), Mark Jacobs (George Mason University) and Hubert Knoblauch (Technical University Berlin) as board members. At our second business meeting in Glasgow, the board was enlarged by Pertti Alasuutari (University of Tampere), Dick Houtman (Erasmus University of Rotterdam) and David Inglis (University of Aberdeen), and Thomas S. Eberle was elected chair, while Anna Lisa Tota remained vice-chair. For the term 2009-2011, the board proposed Anna Lisa Tota as new chair and Hubert Knoblauch as vice-chair. At the business meeting during the 9th ESA Conference in Lisbon both were elected, and the board members were confirmed for another two years. For the term 2011-2012, the board proposed Hubert Knoblauch as chair and Mark Jacobs as vice-chair. At the business meeting during the 10th ESA Conference in Geneva both were elected, and the board members were confirmed for another two years, except Dick Houtman, who asked not to be on the board for another period. The board was enlarged by Motti Regev (The Open University of Israel) and Koen van Eijck (Erasmus University of Rotterdam).

During the 11th ESA conference in Turin in 2013, Marc Jacobs was elected chair and Pertti Alasuutari was elected co-chair. Carmen Leccardi from the University of Milan-Bicocca (Italy), Joost van Loon from the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (Germany) and Predraig Cveticanin from the University of Nis (Serbia)'s Centre for Empirical Cultural Studies of South-East Europe were elected to the board. The other board members were confirmed for another 2 years.

During the 12<sup>th</sup> ESA conference in Prague in 2015, Trever Hagen (University of Exeter) was elected to the board and immediately also elected as chair and Joost van Loon was elected vice chair. The board was extended with Anna-Mari Almila from the London College of Fashion in the U.K., Michaela Pfadenhauer of the University of Wien (Austria), Siobhan Kattago of the University of Tartu in Estonia and Dagmara Beitnere-Le Galla of the University of Riga in Latvia. Koen Van Eyck and Pertti Alasuutari were not present to be reelected and were no longer members of the board by default.

The Research Network has been quite successful in the past, and it continues to be so in the present. The network currently has 83 paying members but draws from a wider constituency of interested colleagues (our mailing list has 110 entries). Unfortunately, because of personal circumstances, Trever Hagen was no longer able to function as chair from December 2016 onwards. Joost van Loon took over his role as Research Network Coordinator and chair of the board in February 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> Joost van Loon was vice-chair of the research network during that period and the current chair; Anna-Mari Almila is current vice-chair.

During the period 2015-2017, our activities encompassed

1. The organization of a midterm conference on 16-18 November 2016 at the University of Exeter, U.K.. 80 participants from 21 different countries took part. There were 4 keynote speakers at plenaries, 15 panels and 1 PhD workshop.
2. The organization of the panel sessions for the bi-annual conference in Athens, 2017 as well as two joint-plenaries of which one had been approved by the conference organizers.
3. Early preparations for a joint mid-term conference with RN02, Sociology of Arts, at the University of Malta 4-7 September 2018

### 1. The Midterm Conference 2016

Call for Papers:



6th midterm Conference of the European Sociological Association's Research Network  
Sociology of Culture (RN7)

16-18 November 2016, Exeter, United Kingdom

#### **“Emergent Culture”**

The ESA Research Network Sociology of Culture held its 6th midterm conference, place from 16-18 November 2016 at the University of Exeter, UK.

The European Sociological Association's Research Network on the Sociology of Culture provides a global network for scholars working within Cultural Sociology. Through collaboration in the Network, RN7 aims to develop the sociological understanding of how human meanings, symbols, cultural structures and practices play a defining role in building social lives.

#### *Conference Theme*

The theme of the 6th midterm conference, 'Emergent Culture', focuses on the diverse pathways of how emergence, as a theoretical framework and empirical phenomenon, enter into the sociological study of culture. Emergence is a key lens that captures core cultural sociological processes of action, meaning and transformation. As such, emergence is understood in relation to events and materiality; access, skills and technology; clusters and bundles; history, memories and associated social practices. It is in this sense that the Conference casts a wide intellectual net to catch the numerous ways emergence enters and shapes social relations between people, spaces, symbols and objects. The 6th midterm conference is seeking papers on the following sub-themes, yet is open to others beyond the core theme of 'Emergent Culture'.

- Post-humanist and socio-technical emergence
- Spaces and places
- Memory
- Aesthetics, symbols and performance
- Cosmopolitanism and transnationalism
- Health, wellbeing and everyday life
- Creativity and cultural capital
- Social movements and culture wars
- Experiential, non-representational and sensory methods
- Migrant cultures
- Cultural sociology, open format

#### *Organising Committee*

Trever Hagen, University of Exeter, UK

Anna-Mari Almila, University of the Arts London, UK RN7 Conference Email:  
[esa.rn7.culture@gmail.com](mailto:esa.rn7.culture@gmail.com)

#### *Scientific Committee*

Trever Hagen (chair), University of Exeter, UK

Joost van Loon (vice-chair), Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany

Mark Jacobs (former chair), George Mason University, USA Carmen Leccardi,  
 University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy

David Inglis, University of Exeter, UK

Michaela Pfadenhauer, University of Vienna, Austria

Predrag Cveticanin, Faculty of Tourism and Sport TIMS, Serbia

Anna-Mari Almila, University of the Arts London, UK

Dagmara Beitnere-Le Galla, University of Latvia Siobhan Kattago, University of Tartu,  
 Estonia

#### *Programme<sup>2</sup>*

WEDNESDAY 16th November

9.00- Registration and coffee

10.00-10.10 Welcome

10.10-11.15 Keynote: David Inglis (University of Exeter) "From Brexit to Sexit and beyond: The Cultural Sociology of Emergence and Emergency"

11.15-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-13.30 1st parallel sessions

13.30-14.30 Lunch

14.30-16.45 2nd parallel sessions

16.45-17.00 Coffee break

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<sup>2</sup> For the full programme, please see appendix 1)

17.00-18.15 Keynote: Antonio Strati (University of Trento): "Ordinary Aesthetics & Everyday Organisational Life: The Emergence of A Field of Study"

THURSDAY 17th November

9.00- Registration and coffee

9.30-11.00 3rd parallel sessions / PhD session

11.00-11.15 Coffee break

11.15-13.15 4th parallel sessions

13.15-14.15 Lunch

14.15-16.15 5th parallel sessions

16.15-16.45 Devon cream tea

16.45-17.30 RN7 business meeting

17.30-17.45 Break

17.45-19.00 Keynote: Anna Lisa Tota (University of Roma III): "The Sustainable Past: Arts and Memories for the Future"

20.00 Conference dinner

FRIDAY 18th November

9.00- Registration and coffee

9.30-11.30 6th parallel sessions

11.30-11.45 Coffee break

11.45-13.00 Keynote: Paul Atkinson (Cardiff University): "The Body of Techniques"

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00-16.00 7th parallel sessions

16.00-16.15 Coffee break

16.15-18.15 8th parallel session

Alongside the four keynote speakers there were 16 parallel sessions consisting of in total 59 presentations. Additionally, one PhD workshop took place, organized by Toa de Nora and Robert Witkin. In total, there were 80 participants from 21 different countries.

The final budget has been attached as a separate document

## 2. The 13<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual Conference of ESA in Athens

### *Call for papers of RN07*

"Cultures of Austerity, Cultures of Resistance: Europe at the Edge"

The Sociology of Culture has had a long tradition of venturing into places on the margin, exploring the rough edges of what is considered to be "common" or "mainstream" culture. From the early Chicago School studies on deviance to highly contemporary engagements with radical movements, resistance, conflict, dissonance etc. has always had a strong influence on the sociological imagination. However, after

30 years of near-hegemonic dominance of Neoliberal global economics, with its associated intensification of local, regional, national and international conflicts, it may be time for the sociology of culture to re-evaluate the conceptual and analytical tools with which it approaches cultural phenomena “at the edge”.

With this call for papers, we invite papers that reflect on the intersections between austerity, marginalization and resistance in terms of “cultural phenomena” and their wider implications for the development of sociological theories and analyses that are explicitly engaged with such phenomena. Needless to say perhaps, this will also include engagements with “traditional” sociological concepts such as capitalism, solidarity and subjectivity. We particularly invite papers that set out to generate theoretical innovations from concrete empirical research, unfolding so to speak, from particular, concrete encounters rather than abstract ideas.

That we reserve a special place for “austerity” is related to the current predicament, that capitalist economics seem to increasingly rely on the deliberate, intentional draining of resources from the public domain and the common good, and channel these into private property, exposing the deep-seated brutality that is at the core of neoliberal capitalist economics. That this exposure seems to unfold in tandem with the rise of radical, ethnocentric, xenophobic and/or racist populism, is of particular concern here, as it might signal the end of what many had hoped would establish itself as “European Culture”.

### *The Conference*

Together with RN02, RN07 successfully organized a joint-plenary session on the theme of Memory.

Of the 61 submitted abstracts, 54 had been accepted of which 38 were eventually confirmed as presentations. These were divided into the following 10 sessions

#### **1. Sociology of Culture General Session A      Wed 30.8 14:00-15:30**

*CHAIR: ANNA-MARI ALMILA*

JOOST VAN LOON (829) “Where is the Joyful Society? Community and the Return of the Uncanny.”

MARK JACOBS (1178) “Follow the Secret: Scandal as social form and cultural object.”

CARMEN LECCARDI (1873) “Crisis of duration, subjectivity and ‘new individualism’.”

#### **2. Sociology of Culture General Session B      Wed 30.8. 16:00-17:30**

*CHAIR: JOOST VAN LOON*

JADWIGA STEFANIA FALUSZCZAK-SKRZYPEK; AGNIESZKA ISKRA-PACZKOWSKA (1775) “Irrational basis of rational consideration about the god’s divinity. Dionysiac source of modern philosophy and study.”

SEMI PURHONEN; RIIE HEIKKILÄ; IRMAK KARADEMIR HAZIR; TINA LAURONEN; CARLOS J. FERNÁNDEZ RODRIGUEZ; JUKKA GRONOW (3297) “Legitimization, Popularization and the Transformation of Cultural Hierarchies in European Newspaper Culture Sections, 1960 – 2010.”

JAN VANA (4665) “More than a product: Strengthening literature in sociological analysis.”

ISABELLA DARMON (5044) “Theatre and social and cultural theory – exploring elective affinities anew.”

### **3. Cultural Practices A      Wed 30.8 18.00-19:30**

*CHAIR: CARMEN LECCARDI*

CICEK COSKUN (5191) "Social histories."

SIMON STEWART (4922) On the edges of the field: independent publishing in the 21st century."

DEVIRIM ERTURK (4704) „Relationships and practices.“

JUN KOBAYASHI (2523) „Are people omnivorous or univorous in cultural activities?: Quantitative analyses.“

### **4. Cultural Practices B      Thu 31.8 9:00-10:30**

*CHAIR: MARK JACOBS*

SARAH MOORE (1401) „Seeing justice being done? Courtroom broadcasting, transparency, and public participation.“

MUSLIMAT AKHMEDOVA (194) „Sensory-consumer culture of capitalist society.“

HUI-JU TSAI (531) „Creative Industries Policy in Taiwan: After the Neoliberal Reform.“

XIAO MEI (4301) "Cultural production by the second-generation entrepreneurs in China."

### **5. Cultural Practices C                      Thu 31.8 11:00-12:30**

*CHAIR: THOMAS EBERLE*

PETER STANKOVIC (253) "Targets of Internet Jokes in Post-socialist Slovenia."

MYOUNG-JIN LEE (966) "The Typology of Cultural Participation in South Korea."

BARBARA TOLLOCZKO (837) "Is Western charm still in power? Changing image of the foreign goods in Poland since the 1970s."

JAVIER CALLEJO, CECILIA DIAZ-MÉNDEZ (1355) "Dearest Spanish timetable. Proposals for a rhythm change."

### **6. European Political Identity A              Thu 31.8 14:00-15:30**

*CHAIR: DAVID INGLIS*

ANDA LAKE; LIGA VINOGRADOVA (768) "The role of emotions in preserving and sustaining the Latvian cultural tradition the Song and Dance Celebration."

BRAD WEST (1176) "Cultural Sociology and Comprehending Political Orthodox Nationalism: Political Islam and Contestation to Secular and Transnational Historical Narratives at the Gallipoli Battlefields in Turkey."

ANDREA KRETSCHMANN (1979) "Illiberal Policing? Simulating protests in Europe."

### **7. European Political Identity B              Thu 31.8 16:00-17:30**

*CHAIR: RUDI LAERMANS*

DAGMARA BREITNERE-LE GALLA (1236) "Does capitalism equal free market plus democracy: a contemporary discourse – Europe and Latvia."

ANDREA PLÖGER (2839) "Changing Public Discourse on Refugees – Tackling Cultural, Structural and Direct Violence."

ANNA-MARI ALMILA (3343) "Fashion cosmopolitanism and the de-cosmopolitization of Europe and realities."

DAVID INGLIS (3389) "How to construct a cultural sociology of Brexit in three not so easy steps."

**8. European Political Identity C Thu 31.8 18:00-19:30**

*CHAIR: DAGMARA BREITNERE-LE GALLA*

IZABELA FRANCKIEWICZ-OLZAK (3013) "Democratization of culture. Democratization of art. Artistic voice of present situation in Europe."

RITA ROBEIRO (3799) "Refugees in Europe: for a sociology of strangeness."

RUIRUI ZHOU (3861) "Social Construction of the Polity: Transformation of Cultural Political Approach in EU – Construction."

PANAS KARAMPAMPAS (4663) "Paradoxes of Identity and Nationalism in the Greek Goth Scene: Germanophiles Greek goths during the "new fiscal German occupation"."

**9. Austerity and Resistance A Fri 01.9 11:00-12:30**

*CHAIR: SIOBHAN KATTAGO*

RUDI LAERMANS; ANNELIES VAN ASSCHE; KATHARINA PEWNY (4276) "Precarity, or austerity as life-form."

PREDRAG CVETICANIN (2463) "Culture of austerity, household survival strategies and revival of mechanical solidarity."

TAMARA PETROVIC (2926) "Symbolic streggles in contemporary Serbia: The interplay of discourses on 'culture', politics and a social inequality."

DOMINIK ZELINSKY (3417) "Philosophy against power: Solidarity, resistance, and underground seminars in communist Czechoslovakia."

**10. Austerity and Resistance B Fri 01.9 14:00-15:30**

*CHAIR: PREDRAG CVETICANIN*

SARAH LEANEY (3365) "Community as contact zone: the power dynamics of making community and possibilities for resistance on a British council estate."

LAURA BEHRMANN; FALK ECKERT(3725) "Doing inequality – a cultural approach to understand processes of social inequality."

YRJÖ KALLINEN (4626) "Exclusion and transgression."

MOHAMMAD REZA YEGANEH JAVADI; SAEDEH ZADGHANNAD; ABBAS FAGHIH KHORASANI (3170) "Incompetence of orientalism approach for perception of Iran in Qajar Era."



### 3. Planning the Midterm Conference 2018



Organized together with RN02, the midterm conference of RN07 will be held on 4-7 September 2018 at the University of Malta in Valletta. This conference is organized by Valerie Visanich, Sacha Kagan, Joost van Loon and Anna-Mari Almila. On the topic of *Creative Locations: Arts, Culture and the City* [www.um.edu.mt/events/10midcon2018](http://www.um.edu.mt/events/10midcon2018).

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION:** November 15th, 2017 – February 15th, 2018

**COORDINATORS:** Chairs of Sociology of the Arts (RN2) & Sociology of Culture (RN7) Research Networks, ESA

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:** Anna-Mari Almila, Dagmara Beitnere-Le Galla, Predrag Cveticanin, Constance DeVereaux, David Inglis, Mark Jacobs, Sacha Kagan, Sari Karttunen, Siobhan Kattago, Carmen Leccardi, Joost van Loon, Dafne Muntanyola Saura, Aleksandra Nenko, Michaela Pfadenhauer, , Anna Lisa Tota, Valerie Visanich.

**VENUE:** University of Malta, Valletta Campus, St Paul Street, Valletta, Malta

**ORGANISERS:** Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, University of Malta & European Sociological Association, RN2 & RN 7

**LOCAL CONVENERS:** Mark-Anthony Falzon & Valerie Visanich, Department of Sociology, University of Malta

**CONFIRMED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:** Charles Landry; Richard Sennett, Nina Wakeford,

In recent years, the arts have gained increasing importance as part of strategies designed for culture-led urban regeneration. The general topic for the 10th Midterm Conference is the connection between the arts, the city and the processes that link them, to examine the intricate interweave of aesthetic, social, cultural and economic dynamics in cities.

Primarily, the conference in Malta intends to offer a terrain for debates on the theoretical development of sociology of culture and of the arts, in particular the role of arts and aesthetics in city life. Specific attention is paid to theoretical paradigms on the arts and cultural regeneration and their implications for sociologists, anthropologists, cultural policy makers and planning practitioners. The conference aims to stimulate debates on the relationship and/or conflict between the 'creative class' who look at creativity as a tool for pursuing socio-economic goals, those who treat creativity either as an end in itself or as a partaking in wider cultural, social and ecological transformations, those who activate creativity in relation to solidarities and urban cultures, and the meanings of everyday creativity for local communities. Research on the European Capitals of Culture are invited to contribute to the discussion on the impact of 3 strategic involvements and investments in artistic projects in cities, whether from approaches stipulating a need to invest in the 'creative economy' (or critiques of the neoliberalization process involved therein), from



approaches aiming to reorient urban development according to goals of e.g. 'cultural planning' and/or 'cultural democracy', or from transdisciplinary approaches aiming for sustainable urban development.

Moreover, on a more micro level, this conference aims to present discussions on the reflexive, transversal and/or autonomous characters of culture as well as the role of artists and cultural audiences in urban change, their shared experiences of contested meanings of artworks and their engagement in cultural participation.

This conference brings together academics and researchers from areas of sociology of the arts, cultural anthropology, urban planning, cultural sociology, cultural studies, cultural policy and related fields.

The ESA Research Networks conferences are traditionally open to other issues beyond those related directly to the main conference theme. This plasticity is highly valued since the Research Networks aim to bring together researchers and support interchange and mutual learning. For this reason, the program will be thematically broad and open for presentations to all core areas of sociology of the arts and sociology of culture.