



## Biennial Report 2017-2019 of Research Network 29

### 1. Name and Number of RN

Social Theory, RN29

### 2. Names and email addresses of:

a. outgoing Coordinators and board members (past term)

Coordinator: Craig Browne [craig.browne@sydney.edu.au](mailto:craig.browne@sydney.edu.au)

Co-coordinator: Hubert Knoblauch [hubert.knoblauch@tu-berlin.de](mailto:hubert.knoblauch@tu-berlin.de)

#### **Board Members**

Benno Herzog [benno.herzog@uv.es](mailto:benno.herzog@uv.es)

Sanem Güvenc [sanemguvenc@gmail.com](mailto:sanemguvenc@gmail.com)

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Francisco Salinas [f.lemus.15@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:f.lemus.15@ucl.ac.uk); [f.lemus15@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:f.lemus15@ucl.ac.uk)

b. incoming Coordinators and board members (new term after this year's conference)

Coordinator: Hubert Knoblauch [hubert.knoblauch@tu-berlin.de](mailto:hubert.knoblauch@tu-berlin.de)

Co-coordinator: Mikael Carheden [mc@soc.ku.dk](mailto:mc@soc.ku.dk)

#### **Board Members**

Arthur Bueno [Arthur.bueno@uni-erfurt.de](mailto:Arthur.bueno@uni-erfurt.de)

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#### **Advisory Board**

Craig Browne [craig.browne@sydney.edu.au](mailto:craig.browne@sydney.edu.au)

Marta Soler [marta.soler@ub.edu](mailto:marta.soler@ub.edu)

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Frank Welz [frank.welz@uibk.ac.at](mailto:frank.welz@uibk.ac.at)

### **3. Activities:**

Please describe all relevant activities of your RN in the past two-year term:

The authoring by the Chair of the Research Network description that is published on the website.

Mid-term Conference, Research Network Stream, RN Website, Promotion of Social Theory,

**a. Did you organise a mid-term conference?**

Yes.

Title: Refigurations of Society. Sociological Perspectives on Modernity in Transition

Venue: Institute of Sociology, Technical University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Date: 5-6 September 2018

Organizer: Craig Browne and Hubert Knoblauch

Number of Papers: 54

Number of Participants: 60

Event Assessment: The Mid-Term Conference provided an excellent opportunity to engage with current social theory discussions of modernity in transition and the refiguration of society. The conference was intellectually stimulating and there were widely enjoyed conference dinners in Berlin. There were exceptionally well-attended parallel sessions over the course of the two-day conference and many highlights. Overall there were 54 paper presentations that explored different dimensions of the conference theme. There were two impressive and substantial Keynote presentations by Professor Martina Löw, Technical University of Berlin, and Professor Scott Lash, University of Hong Kong. There was a very well-attended business meeting. The conference was significant in attracting new RN29 members. It was an excellent event and a debt of gratitude is owed to the local organisers.

**b. Please report on your activities at the ESA Conference of this year: Number of sessions; how many presentations, how many distributed papers?**

RN 29 Social Theory organized sessions, including a parallel session, it held a very well attended Business Meeting that discussed matters relevant to future planning and held elections for the board and coordinator positions, it held a similarly well-attended dinner social event after the business meeting, the RN Coordinator participated in ESA information sessions. Members of RN 29 formed part of the outgoing and incoming executive of the ESA.

RN29 was one of the co-organisers with RN 15 and RN31 of the tribute to Robert Fine Special Session centred on themes of cosmopolitanism and anti-semitism. Robert Fine made an immense contribution to the discussion of these themes. The session was worthy tribute to Robert Fine with presentations by Christine Achinger and Daniel Chernilo.

RN 29 Social Theory had Sessions 11, 43 presentations, including co-presenters. A few of the presenters were unable to attend and in a couple of instances their co-presenter represented them. A number of sessions were explicitly addressed to the conference theme.

RN 29 members were presenters at the 'Mid-Day Special' sessions and they provided other additional presentations to the ESA executive.

Marta Soler, the 2015-2017 RN29 coordinator and current member of the RN29 Advisory Board was elected ESA President 2019-2021. Craig Browne, the Chair, wrote one of the letters of support for Marta Soler's candidature. Marta Soler is the third member of RN29 to have been elected ESA President, having been preceded by RN29 office-bearers Frank Welzer and Pekka Sukunen.

The RN 29 Chair attended the Research Network meeting of the conference.

The RN29 Chair and the incoming Chair and Vice Chair held a planning meeting.

The planning for the next mid-term conference commenced.

- c. Did you establish a Newsletter of your RN? If so, how often is the Newsletter published; is it sent through the ESA RN website?

No

- d. Does your RN have a website of its own, other than the space on the official ESA website?

Yes, the RN 29 Social Theory has its own website: <http://www.social-theory.eu/>

- e. Publications related to RN sessions and/or midterm meetings?

There are many journal articles, book chapters and book publications that derive from work originally presented at RN 29 sessions and mid-term meetings. For instance, board member Benno Herzog's book *Suffering from Invisibilization*, Palgrave Macmillan, and which has been developed through presentations at RN29 meetings. There is a Routledge book series *Refigurations of Society*, which intersects with the mid-term conference and there are many other publications.

- f. Any action to be taken to improve participation of PhD students and early career researchers?

Yes, any funds that are available will be used to support PhD student and early career researchers' participation in the 2020 Mid-term conference. The continuing inclusion of a PhD student among the RN Board Members provides important representation for PhD students. RN29 is seeking to assist early career researchers, as well as PhD students. It will promote ESA support and resources.

- g. Any action to be taken to expand membership, especially from countries with overall weaker ESA membership? Also, are there members from outside Europe?

The Mid-term Conference will be widely promoted through national and international sociology associations. It is expected that this profile will expand the RN membership. The membership list will be scrutinized to assess which countries have a weaker representation amongst RN 29 Social Theory and appropriate promotional activity will be undertaken.

Yes, there are a number of members from outside Europe, including the 2017-2019 coordinator and a number of other scholars at various stages of their career. In particular, there are several members from outside Europe who are undertaking PhDs and postdoctoral research in Europe who are members of the RN. The 2019-2021 RN29 board includes members originally from Chile and Brazil. Likewise, the accessibility for members from less well-resourced European nations is taken into account in the planning of the mid-term conference.

- h. Any collaboration within ESA with other RNs? If so, please give details. Do you plan to improve collaboration across RNs?

The RN has co-organized sessions of conferences, including plenary sessions, and it plans to continue collaborations in the future. It is expected that sessions will be proposed for the next ESA conference that involve some collaboration with other RNs. As noted above, a Special

Session of the ESA Conference was co-organized by RN29, 15 and 31. The board is interested in building on these collaborations.

- i.** Any action to be taken to improve opportunities for publication of papers presented at the RN meetings and sessions?

The Coordinators discuss publication opportunities with the board members, with a view to developing edited volumes or special journal issues dedicated to the work of RN publications, especially that presented at the Mid-term Conference and the main ESA conference. The Board Meeting considered invitations that have been received from publishers and journals to contribute submissions.

- j.** Any other important activities undertaken by your RN?

The RN will continue to promote awareness of the current persecution of academic scholars in some European and non-European nation-states. Some members of the RN are currently affected by the policies of nation states with governments hostile to open academic inquiry.

- k.** Any plans for further activities of your RN?

The RN plans to update its profile on the ESA website and to enhance its website.