TRAVEL TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

(Full travel instructions will be included in the Registration documents)

The University is situated three miles from COLCHESTER, in Essex, 50 miles North East of London.

Air
STANSTED is the nearest airport, some 45 minutes by road from Colchester - an excellent, new, pleasant airport with direct scheduled flights from many other European countries: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Holland, Germany, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Northern Ireland, Romania, Russia, Spain, Scotland and Switzerland.

London HEATHROW and London GATWICK airports are some 90 minutes by taxi from the University, or take underground railway (Heathrow) or train (Gatwick) to London, Liverpool Street station.

Train
There is an excellent rail service between Colchester and London (Liverpool Street) with a journey time of 50 minutes to an hour and 3 trains an hour. The University is 3 miles from Colchester Station - 15 minutes by taxi. There are also bus connections and a mini-bus service will be provided on days 0 and 1.

Road
The University is just off the A12 and 40 minutes drive from the M25. Parking out of term time, when the Conference will take place, is ample. The journey from the Channel tunnel at Folkestone takes about two hours by car, via the M20, M25 and A12.

Ship
The University is 14 miles from Harwich port where ships sail to the Hook of Holland. It is a little under two hours drive from Dover.
Sociologists have distinctive perspectives to offer debates on European developments, which in the recent past have been so often dominated by neoliberal economic concerns with deregulating markets. The contributions that Sociology can make in the area of social integration and social exclusion, social inequality, citizenship, cultures and identities need to be placed more centrally on the intellectual agenda for Europe. The organisers of the Third Conference of European Sociology hope these meetings will contribute to this process.

The European Sociological Association invites you to consider the theme '20th Century Europe: Inclusions/Exclusions'. The social divisions of gender, ethnicity, class and age will be a central focus. The span of intense sociological intellectual activity roughly covers that of the twentieth century. The Conference will look backwards over developments during the last century before the arrival of the millennium makes us look forward, at the 4th European Conference of Sociology in 1999, to the next century. It provides an opportunity to consider both the development of Europe and of sociological understandings of Europe. The participants in the Conference will revisit classical European sociology and assess its legacy. The place of Europe in the world will be examined in the context of globalisation, and responses to this - including the increasing integration of the European Union which is creating new institutions and processes, new inclusions and exclusions.

Sylvia Walby,
President, European Sociological Association

THE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

The Conference will start mid-morning on Wednesday 27th August and end on Saturday 30th August at lunchtime. Participants may arrive on the Tuesday (day 0) if they book for this.

There will be a number of major parallel streams relating to the six themes of the Conference, with a sub-plenary for each of the six themes. In addition there will be round-table sessions on topics such as researching children, ageing and Social Europe. There will be opportunities to meet authors who have recently published works on Europe. There will be information sessions on areas such as sociology on the Internet, European research funding, panel surveys and data archives.

The programme will include social and cultural events. There will be a Publishers display and Reception, a University Reception and a Conference Dinner on Wednesday night. The ESA will be holding its Annual General Meeting during the Conference. You can also book rooms for special meetings (form enclosed or available from Conference organiser).

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

The University of Essex is a leading academic institution in the UK particularly renowned for its strong social sciences departments. The Department of Sociology which is hosting the Conference is one of the largest Sociology departments in the UK with a national and international reputation. The University has three major projects funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council: the Research Centre on Micro-Social Change, the Data Archive and the Qualitative Data Archival Resource Centre.

The University is situated just outside Colchester on the edge of 'Constable Country', an area of outstanding natural beauty, immortalised by the famous English painter John Constable. It is just 12 miles from the coast and less than an hour from London. All accommodation for the Conference will be on site within five minutes walk of the lecture theatres, seminar rooms and other amenities.