



European Sociologist

Newsletter of the European Sociological Association. July 2011, Issue 31

Editor's Message



The European Sociological Association Geneva conference is on our doorstep. 2,700 delegates will meet in this international city for discussions, meetings and exchanges. EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGIST is delighted to bring to you advance

information on the conference, the final programme of the Ph.D workshop. and what you can do in Geneva. And while at the conference, or before, don't forget to vote for the next ESA President and Executive! Full details on all candidates can be found here for the first time. The candidates cover a wide range of European countries and interests within European sociology.

EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGIST has emerged as a major channel of communication for sociologists throughout the continent. We are honoured to host a letter by European Research Council President, Helga Nowotny, who exposes the "Horizon 2020" multi-annual framework programme for research and innovation and explains the attitude of the European Commission to science-based knowledge of society in Europe. The newsletter thus not only publicizes the latest ESA news, but also keeps sociologists up-to-date with new trends in Europe.

Each issue of EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGIST has focused on a different National Association. This time, we feature the Polish Sociological Association, established by one of sociology's founding fathers, Florian Znaniecki. In addition, we are publishing for the first time the final draft of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the National Association representatives, who attended the October 2010 Paris meeting, and the ESA. In previous issues, we have also reported on the activities of an ESA Research Network. This issue is no exception, and we feature RN 29 on Social Theory.

The innovative interviews focusing on intellectual sociological giants entitled "In the Limelight" has proven to be of interest beyond the borders of Europe. This issue contains excerpts from a longer interview with the prolific and dynamic Polish-born, UK-based sociologist, Zygmunt Bauman.

As ever, the newsletter welcomes feedback from readers. In the past, it has incorporated many suggestions by others, and as you can judge, it has improved from issue to issue. Therefore, if you have any ideas or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at:

msshalha@mscc.huji.ac.il

See you in Geneva!

Shalva Weil
Editor-European Sociologist

Geneva, here we come!

★ **The dates:** 7th-10th September, 2011.

★ **The conference theme:**
"Social Relations in Turbulent Times".
In an era of social turbulence and economic Uncertainty in Europe, sociologists have even more to contribute, not only to other academics, but also to the general public.

★ **The location:** University of Geneva.
The Sociology Department is one of the oldest departments of this discipline in the world. Many famous scholars taught sociology in Geneva, such as de Sismondi, Louis Warin, or Jean Piaget.

★ **The Welcome Reception:** 7th September at 19.15-21.00 at Uni Mail, University of Geneva.

★ **Among the plenary and semi-plenary speakers:** Jacqueline O'Reilly, Martin Kohli, John Urry, Colin Crouch, Frank Dobbin, Jens Beckert, Wolfgang Streeck, Neil Fligstein, John Solomos, Sylvia Walby, and more

★ **The conference website:** <http://www.esa10thconference.com/>



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Submitting material for the Newsletter

European Sociologist is the newsletter of the European Sociological Association, which aims at disseminating information to the widest possible audience. Material appearing in other newsletters or the publications of national associations, university departments may be duplicated in the Newsletter.

European Sociologist is not a journal and hence does not publish academic articles, but all other types of material of relevance to sociologists working on or in Europe will be considered: articles, opinion pieces, features, comments, letters to the Editor, reports and more.

We work directly from electronic media, so please send material in a Word file via e-mail.

The newsletter charges for commercial advertisements only. The current fees are: 200 EUR for a quarter page.



President's Message

In November 2009, when the Executive Committee chose the theme *Social Relations in Turbulent Times* for our 2011 conference in Geneva, we did not know how well we were hitting the target. From then on, turbulent events have impacted financial, economic, political and social agendas, challenging established assumptions.

Of course, there are always those who have a quick answer to explain these changes. Books have been written on similar topics from various viewpoints. But the situation we are living in necessitates a close analysis and follow-up of the events addressing these complex issues. That is why we are gathering outstanding scholars from Europe and elsewhere for our Geneva conference to analyze and debate present and future societal trends. I am really hoping for lively and enriching contributions.

Since my last message in January, a lot of other events have required ESA's intervention. In December 2010, colleagues from several parts of Europe drew our attention to changes in DG Research that seemed to represent a downsizing of social science in Europe. We took a public stand and directed [a letter](#) to the Head of DG Research, Robert Ian Smith. He answered us with some explanations. We also participated in the consultation about the Green Paper and signed a collective position with the chair of the UK Council of Professors and Heads of Departments of Sociology and the British Sociological Association. Those activities represent our attempt to constitute the strong voice of sociologists in Europe.

We also participated in the *Initiative for Science in Europe*, continuing a commitment started with previous ESA President, Giovanni Procacci. The aim is to reinforce the role of all scientists in Europe by not only emphasizing the need for scientific research funds and working conditions, but also enlarging the public understanding of science as a way to strengthen citizenship.

In order to accomplish our goal of getting closer to NAs and recognising their crucial role in the life of the ESA, Roberto Cipriani, Pekka Sulkunen and I initiated a meeting in Paris to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with 25 NAs present. The Memorandum, [found in this newsletter](#), testifies to a true commitment between the ESA and the NAs to assure mutual exchanges and common initiatives.

Along with the effort of further involving the Research Networks with the Executive and ESA, clearer guidelines and other changes were introduced under the lead of the chair of the Research Network Committee, Thomas Eberle. Proposals extending the role of RNs in the Executive Committee were approved in our last meeting in May and will be presented at the next General Assembly in September in Geneva.

The preparation for [our PhD workshop](#), held biennially, proceeded well. There were almost 200 student proposals and Ellen Kulmann (Chair) and Elina Oinas had a hard job with the selection process. The final programme is balanced thematically and includes representatives from different countries in Europe.

Another step in the direction of a consolidated association is the Code of Ethics, prepared by former ESA President Claire Wallace, to be discussed in the next Executive meeting in September.

The last months have been mainly dedicated to the final preparation of the conference in Geneva. The LOC, chaired by Sandro Cattacin and supported by Patricia Naegeli and Bill Hughes, chair of the programme committee, has been working very hard with RN and RS coordinators to get the programme in order to have a successful conference. We are expecting almost the same amount of participants as we had in Lisbon; if we have less, I'm sure the reason will be the financial crisis we are enduring.

In this newsletter, carefully prepared by Shalva Weil, you will also find a lot of other details about the conference. You will find a very interesting group of candidates, from whom to select the next President and the new Executive.

In my last message in the newsletter as President of the ESA, I would like to say that I have tried to reinforce ESA as a real European Association, reaffirming sociology and sociological work in political and public agendas. We have achieved our goals of increasing ESA membership, which doubled in Lisbon in 2009, and has further increased to 1,700 in July 2011, even before the conference. This points to a positive and growing trend.

Besides trying to gain more external, positive visibility and taking, among others, a public stand against the downsizing of social science in Europe, I have tried, following previous Presidents, to strengthen our ties and establish a clear commitment to NAs and support all the initiatives taken to connect with RNs. Reinforcing the role of the Editorial Board of *European Societies* and standing for ESA interests vis-a-vis our publisher was also one of the topics with which I dealt. I hope the next President finds the house in order, like I did, and that ESA continues to flourish.

It would not be necessary to say that everything resulted from pleasant teamwork. I am very grateful for all the support I received; the role of Gisèle Tchinda has also been crucial.

To finish, I want to extend my solidarity to all colleagues in Greece who, as well as all the people in the country, are suffering in such difficult times. It is essential to extend support from all Europeans.

Yours,
Anália Torres

ESA Secretariat

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Welcome to the 10th Conference of the ESA in Geneva!

Sandro Cattacin and Patricia Naegeli

On behalf of the LOC (Local Organizing Committee)

We have good news from Geneva! It will be a diverse gathering of sociologists from Europe and from the rest of the world as we already have more than 2,400 participants for the congress. 25 are selected PhD students, who won the ESA scholarship for this conference. They will participate in the Ph.D School (organized by Ellen Kuhlmann and Elina Oinas) and almost all of them will also volunteer at the congress. It will be a wonderful way for them to network and get to know Geneva. Of course, they are invited to stay for the whole week as their registration is free and accommodation is provided by the Congress Organisation Committee. They will stay in the youth hostel in the multi-ethnic *Pâquis* neighborhood. During the conference, Geneva will not only provide a rich experience of sociological thinking but we are preparing exciting events around the conference – but that's top secret! And don't forget: the whole "village" will be in celebration. During the week of the ESA Conference, the *Festival de la Bâtie* de Genève will take place (www.batie.ch). Starting September 2nd until September 17th, a multi-disciplinary festival of art, music and culture will take place in over 20 sites all over Geneva and neighbouring France.

Geneva will also welcome you with plenty of other attractions. In September, the weather is generally fair and we invite you to discover the "smallest metropolis of the world", as Geneva likes to call itself. A few of these attractions include:

The Lake – Take a stroll around the mouth of Lac Léman and relax in one of the lakeside parks or cafes. For a unique perspective on the city, take a one- or two- hour boat cruise around the lake. If you like the lake, on the North side ("rive droite") you'll find "Les Bains des Pâquis", a pier equipped with an excellent restaurant, diving boards and a pebble beach. If you prefer the sand you can go to the south side of the lake and visit "Genève Plage". Next to "Genève Plage" you'll also find grassy areas next to the lake where you can lay out in the sun.

The Old Town – Walk around old Geneva's winding cobblestone streets and head to the top of the tower in Saint Peter's Cathedral to grab a breathtaking view of the city. Also visit Geneva's oldest house "la Maison Tavel" and make a stop at the Museum of Art and History. You can also enjoy a coffee or a delicious meal in the old town square.

The United Nations Building and Red Cross Museum – Take a tour of the European Headquarters of the United Nations followed by a visit to the Red Cross Museum across the street. Be sure to take note of the many sculptures as you wander the grounds in between including the "Broken Chair" monument to land mine victims at Place des Nations.

Carouge – Take a 10-minute walk from Uni Mail and cross the L'Arve River to the Bohemian burg of Carouge, otherwise known as the "Greenwich Village of Geneva". Turinese architects developed a chessboard design of crisscrossing streets planted with trees, showcasing low houses with wooden, Mediterranean-style galleries looking into internal gardens. The neighborhood is filled with artsy cafés galleries and jazz clubs.

Plainpalais Flea Market – A two minute walk from Uni Mail is Geneva's largest outdoor flea market, which is open Wednesday and Saturday from 08:00 to 18:00, rain or shine. Antiques, records, vintage clothing and other curios await savvy bargain hunters.

Bastions Park and Place Neuve – The beautiful gated park of the old University, founded in 1559, at the foot of the old city's Reformation Wall is an excellent place to sit out on the grass under the sun and enjoy the company of friends. In front of the Park is Place Neuve, which is home to Geneva's oldest and most beautiful performance and exhibition halls.

The Salève – Ride the gondola up Geneva's backyard mountain and enjoy breathtaking views of the surrounding Alps and the city below. Of course if you're feeling fit, you can hike up along one of the Salève's many marked trails.

Get Out – Take a bike or boat ride to any of Lake Geneva's other lakeside paradises or hop on an excursion bus at *Gare Routiere* to visit one of Switzerland's famous mountain towns.

At what can you do in the evening, if you don't like opera and classical music? There is something for all tastes. Geneva has a nice Jazz scene, at the AMR (www.amr-geneve.ch) in particular, but also at the *Chat Noir* – which is also known as disco (www.chatnoir.ch). Another good place for dancing is the MAD (Moulin à Danse- www.mad-geneve.ch). Don't forget to go to the *Usine* – the first home of alternative music in Geneva, and today one of most exciting party places for Geneva's young adults. (www.usine.ch).

Hope to meet you soon in Geneva!





Excitement Mounts as Innovative Geneva Conference Draws Near

Bill Hughes, Chair of the ESA Conference Committee

About two months to go and preparations for the Conference in Geneva - the world capital of meetings - are in full swing. The Local Organising Committee under the cool guidance of Chair Professor Sandro Catacin and administrator *extrordinaire*, Patricia Naegeli, has everything under control. The ESA Executive met with Sandro and Patricia in Paris at the end of May and there was palpable joy in the room when it became clear that all was well and that best laid plans looked well on their way to fruition.

Though it will change, the scientific programme has bones and flesh. The sessions for Research Networks and Research Streams have been organised and we will be able to get a much clearer indication of numbers when the registration deadline for paper-givers has passed. However, do expect a big conference. It is probably fair to conclude that the 3,500 abstracts submitted to Local Organising Committee will translate into about 2,500 delegates. Despite turbulent times, this conference may even upstage Lisbon in terms of the numbers that it attracts.

If you go to the [conference website](#), you will get more detail but [this](#) gives a flavour of some of the things that the programme has to offer. There are three plenary sessions: *Social Europe under Pressure* with Jacqueline O'Reilly, Martin Kohli and John Urry as the keynotes, *Life Trajectories in Turbulent Times* featuring Hans-Peter Blossfeld, William Dannefer and Hannah Brueckner and, to close proceedings, *The Future of Capitalism* with John Solomos and Sylvia Walby. Furthermore, to reflect the globalization of turbulent times, the ESA president, Analia Torres, has organised with the ISA president, Michael Burawoy, a special plenary entitled *Views from around the World*.

And there's much more, including 12 semi-plenary sessions with 24 speakers, many of whom were suggested by the Research Network co-ordinators. There are the usual 'meet the author' sessions featuring authors and texts that are at the heart of sociological debates across Europe. Look out for special sessions. I think they will attract significant interest and may pull people out of their networks in order to explore less familiar sociological avenues.

Special sessions include: *Understanding Capitalism: Integrating Economic Sociology and Political Economy* where you will find sociologists like Colin Crouch, Frank Dobbin, Jens Beckert, Wolfgang Streeck and Neil Fligstein. The special session on *Approaches to "Bottom-up" Research in a Policy Environment* features Thea Boldt-Jaremko, Lyudmila Nurse and Robert Miller. *Education and (In)Equality(ies): New Realities, New Perspectives* is a session that involves a multi-national cast of our sociological colleagues. Last but not least - a first for the European Sociological Association - a session in French: *Nouvelles tendances de la sociologie francophone aujourd'hui* with Jean de Munck and Laurent Thévenot.

Given this cornucopia of sociologists, you should be able to find some of your favourite minds in the lecture theatres and corridors of Uni-Mail or perhaps in the bars and restaurants in its immediate environs. While I am on the subject of what you might do beyond the scientific, the Local Organising Committee has done a huge amount of work in developing the social programme. They clearly have a view that delegates should enjoy themselves. I hope that this is what you too expect from Calvin's fair city!



Election of the President and the Executive Committee 2011-2013

INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING

Dear ESA Member,

The Nomination committee of ESA has had wide consultations and asked for proposals for candidates from ESA members, from ESA RNs, and from the National Sociological Associations in Europe. Based on these consultations a slate of two candidates (a man and a woman) for President and 26 candidates (11 men and 15 women) for the Executive Committee has been made, taking into account region and field of research.

All members of ESA in good standing (who have paid their membership fees by the time of the 10th ESA Conference in Geneva, Sept.7-10, 2011) will vote for president of ESA and for members of the ESA Executive Committee for the next two year period.

Members may vote before the Conference by regular mail or at the Conference itself for **1 (one) candidate for the President and a maximum of 10 (ten) candidates for the Executive Committee**. If you vote for more than one candidate for the President or for more than ten candidates for the Executive Committee, the ballot will be invalid. Members may also express their candidate preference by writing in the name (or names) of other ESA members to the end of the lists of candidates.

The voting starts on Monday, July 18th, 2011 and ends on Friday, September 9th, 2011, at 12 o'clock (noon) at the 10th Conference of ESA to be held in Geneva, Switzerland.

You should put (1) the voting card with your hand-written signature together with (2) the ballot including your votes closed in the small neutral envelope in the larger envelope. Send all (please note that ESA does not pay for this mailing) to :

Gisèle Tchinda
ESA secretariat
59-61 rue pouchet
75017 Paris (France)

The card and the ballot should reach the office at the latest on **August 25th, 2011**. You can also bring your voting card to Geneva and vote there by putting the ballot into the ESA voting box. In the registration area of the ESA conference in Geneva voting will open on Thursday, September 8th at 10:00 am and will be closed by 12.00 a.m. (noon) on Friday, September 9th, 2011.

Roberto Cipriani (Chair of the ESA Nominations Committee)

CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT



Elena Danilova (Russia)

is the head of the department of social transformations at the Institute of Sociology at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. Her work and publications focus on social transformations and changing social identities in post-socialist societies. She has conducted many comparative research projects, the most recent being on social changes in Russia and China. She also teaches sociology at the International College of Economics and Finance at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. She is a member of the ESA Executive Committee and of the editorial board of the journal "European Societies." She coordinates the research stream on "West and East: Two Decades of Transformations."

Pekka Sulkunen (Finland)

is a professor of sociology at the University of Helsinki. His several books on social theory, cultural studies, addictions and preventive social policy include *The Saturated Society: Regulating Risk and Lifestyle in Consumer Culture* (Sage 2009). He is currently appointed as senior fellow at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, a member of the Finnish Society of Letters and Sciences, a founding member of the ESA RN for sociology of consumption, and has served two terms in the ESA Executive Committee as chair of the External Relations Committee. His language skills include Finnish, Swedish, English, French, and German.



CANDIDATES FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Maria Carmela Agodi (Italy)

is a full professor of sociology, specializing in methodology and sociology of science, at the University Federico II in Naples. Her research, essays, and books focus on institutional change, rationality, reflexivity, welfare and the "knowledge society." She has presented papers at ISA, ESA and EASST conferences. A former member of the International Consulting Editorial Board of the *American Journal of Sociology* (1990-1992) and of the Foreign Exchange Committee at the International Research Center of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor (1991-1992), she is currently on the Executive Board of the Italian Sociological Association (AIS).

Pertti Alasuutari (Finland)

is an academy professor at the University of Tampere at the School of Social Sciences and Humanities. He is the editor of the *European Journal of Cultural Studies* and has published in the areas of social theory, culture and media studies, and social research methodology. His books include *Researching Culture: Qualitative Method and Cultural Studies* (Sage, 1995), *An Invitation to Social Research* (Sage 1998), *Rethinking the Media Audience* (Sage 1999), and *Social Theory and Human Reality* (Sage 2004). He is a board member of the ESA RN 7 on sociology of culture. He was the first president of the International Association for Cultural Studies (2002-2004).



Ellen Annandale (UK)

is a professor of sociology at Leicester University with a strong commitment to postgraduate training. She is the co-coordinator of RN 16 on the sociology of health. Her research covers health, illness, gender, organisations and professions. The author of many journal articles and monographs, she also edited books including *The Sociology of Health and Medicine* (Polity) and *Women's Health and Social Change* (Routledge). She was previously the vice-president and conference organiser for the Research Committee on sociology of health of the ISA (2007-2010). From 2004, she serves as editor-in-chief of *Social Science & Medicine*. Based on her experience, she would be pleased to contribute to the Executive Committee's work on publications, external relations or conference organisation.

Svitlana Babenko (Ukraine)

is an associate professor of sociology at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Her research focuses on social theory, social inequalities, comparative studies, life chances, health, life course, and success strategies. She is an active member of International, European and Ukrainian Sociological Associations, of the ESA RN on social theory, the ISA RC 09 on social transformations and sociology of development, and the RC 28 on social stratification, social transformations and social inequalities. Her work seeks to improve teaching sociology and she coordinates the project ReSET-HESP "European Visions and Divisions: Comparative Studies for Advances in Teaching Sociology."



Luís Baptista (Portugal)

is a professor of sociology at the New University of Lisbon and the vice-dean of the faculty of social sciences and humanities. His teaching and research are mainly in urban sociology and leisure activities. He has directed research projects and published on the internationalization of the Portuguese language. He is director of the CESNOVA (Center for Sociological Research). He was the vice-president and president of the Portuguese Sociological Association. He was a member of the LOC (Local Organizing Committee) of the ESA Conference in Lisbon. He is a board member of the ESA RN 27 on southern European societies.

Mechthild Bereswill (Germany)

works at Kassel University. Her research includes sociology of social problems, gender orders, social control, qualitative methodologies, and social inequalities. Since 2010, she has been a member of the DFG Graduate School on Dynamics of Space and Gender at the University of Kassel and at the Georg-August-University Göttingen. She is also the chair of the interdisciplinary research unit "Inequalities in Gender Orders" at the University of Kassel. She is a board member of ESA RN 33 on Women's and Gender studies, and in the DGS (2006-2010), the chair of the section of women's and gender Studies (2011), and a member of the board of section of social problems and social control.





Helena Carreiras (Portugal)

has been an assistant professor of sociology at the Lisbon University Institute since 1989, where she teaches mainly in the field of methodology of the social sciences. She obtained her PhD at the European University Institute in Florence. She has been a visiting scholar at the University of California, guest lecturer in Spain and Brasil, and vice-president of the Portuguese Sociological Association. She was the president of the Local Organising Committee of the 9th ESA Conference in Lisbon, is currently deputy-director of the National Defense Institute in Lisbon, and a member of the Executive Committee of the ESA.

Vincenzo Cicchelli (France)

is Maître de Conférences at Paris Descartes and Research Fellow at Gemass (CNRS, Paris 4). His research interests include national and European identities, impact of globalization on youth, and cosmopolitan socialization. He is series editor of "Youth in a Globalising World" at Brill. He is co-president of the Groupe de Travail (Société globale, cosmopolitisme et droits humains - AISLF). His recent publications include *Adolescences méditerranéennes: l'espace public à petits pas* (co-ed. 2007), *Deux pays, deux jeunesses? La condition juvénile en France et en Italie* (co-ed. 2008), and *La jeunesse n'est plus ce qu'elle était* (co-ed. 2010).



Elena Danilova (Russia)

See above-Candidates for President.

Juan Díez Medrano (Spain)

received his PhD from the University of Michigan. He is the Rafael del Pino professor of sociology at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and Research Programme Coordinator at Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals. He is the author of *Divided Nations* (1995, Cornell University Press) and *Framing Europe* (2003, Princeton University Press). He has published in the *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Theory and Society* and *Comparative European Politics*. Major grants include the Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship in 1995. He was the 2006 recipient of the Einaudi Chair in European and International Studies at Cornell University. His main areas of research are the sociology of European integration, ethnic conflict, and nationalism.



Ricca Edmondson (Ireland)

was educated in England at the Universities of Lancaster and Oxford. She then worked for a decade in Berlin as a translator and in post-doctoral research at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development before moving to the School of Political Science and Sociology at the University of Ireland in Galway. She co-convoked the ESA RN 1 on Ageing for a decade, and is passionate about issues she sees as central for its future. These include developing the Research Networks' standing in the organisation with a real commitment to understanding the challenges and fruits of inter-disciplinarity and international co-operation.

Robert Fine (UK)

is a professor of sociology at the University of Warwick. He has written on social and political thought on the Enlightenment, Hegel, Marx, Arendt (Political Investigations, Marx's Critique of the Legal Form), Habermas, cosmopolitan social theory and human rights (Cosmopolitanism). He has published on the role of the labour movement in combating racism in South Africa (Labour and Liberation in South Africa) and he is currently researching antisemitism (*Patterns of Prejudice*). He was the co-founder of the Social Theory Centre at Warwick and co-convenes the ESA RN on Racism and Antisemitism.



Salvador Giner (Spain)

is the president of the Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Barcelona and professor emeritus of sociology at the University of Barcelona. He has conducted past research and taught at various British universities (King's College, Cambridge, Reading, Lancaster, and West London). His visiting appointments included Yale, Sorbonne, and the Universities of Rome, Buenos Aires, Mexico, Madrid and Valencia, in Venezuela. He is the co-founder and president of the Catalan Sociological Association and Spanish Sociological Association. He co-founded the ESA. He is the editor of *Revista Internacional de Sociología* and a past member of the editorial boards of *Sociology*, *BSA*, and *European Journal of Social Theory*. He is the founder and first director of the Instituto de Estudios Sociales Avanzados at the National Research Council in Spain. He was previously a member of the Executive Committee of the International Sociological Association.



Aytul Kasapoglu (Turkey)

is a professor at Ankara University in the department of sociology. She carried out several research projects on the impact of disasters. She was a coordinator for the EU Project on Repression of Crime. She is the author of more than 60 publications and has received 12 publication awards. She was a visiting professor at the University of Bristol in England and at Colorado University. She is the chairperson of the department of sociology, a member of Ankara University Ethical Committee and Director of the Institute of Social Sciences. She is the founding member and vice president of the Sociology Association in Turkey.

Tally Katz-Gerro (Israel)



is a senior lecturer in sociology at the University of Haifa. She received her PhD from the University of California at Berkeley and specializes in the sociology of consumption, culture, inequality, and environmental sociology. Formerly the co-chair, she is now the chair of RN 5 on consumption, which is one of the largest and most active networks within the ESA. At the University of Haifa, she served as advisor of the undergraduate program, the head of the MA program, a member of the teaching committee, and head of the social involvement program.



Ellen Kuhlmann (UK)

is currently senior lecturer in the department of social and policy sciences at the University of Bath, in the UK. She received her Habilitation from the University of Bremen and a PhD in sociology and Masters degree in public health from the University of Bielefeld, Germany. She is currently a member of the ESA Executive, where she chairs the Committee on PhD Research. She was previously the coordinator of RN 19 on professions. She is also president-elect of International Sociological Association RC 52 on professional groups. Her main research areas are healthcare and policy, professions, and gender studies.

Lydia Martens (UK)



is senior lecturer in sociology at Keele University. She is a board member of the ESA's RN on consumption. As a Dutch national living and working in the UK, she has a keen interest in European and cross-cultural dimensions of sociological enterprise. Her publications include *Eating Out: Social Differentiation, Consumption and Pleasure* (2000 with Alan Warde) and *Gender and Consumption: Domestic Cultures and the Commercialisation of Everyday Life* (2007 with Emma Casey). She is also co-author of *Bringing Children (and Parents) into the Sociology of Consumption* (2004).



Luigi Pellizzoni (Italy)

is a professor of environmental sociology at the University of Trieste. His interests focus on risk, sustainability, technoscience, governance, participation and deliberate democracy. He has lectured at various institutions in Europe and has been active in the ESA RN 12 on environment and society, RN 22 on risk and uncertainty, and on the board of ISA RC 24 on the environment and society. He has experience in international projects, has authored and edited nine books, and published several articles in the *British Journal of Sociology*, *European Journal of Social Theory*, *Theory Culture & Society*, *Environmental Politics*, *Environmental Values*, *European Societies*, *Global Environmental Politics* and *Global Environmental Change*.

Ana Romão (Portugal)



is currently a professor at the social sciences department of the Military Academy in Lisbon and was formerly a teacher at the Algarve University. She was a board member of the Portuguese Sociological Association (APS) from 2004 to 2010 and presently the vice-president, with editorial responsibilities of the *Sociologia On-Line*, the journal of the APS. She is co-coordinates the ESA RN 27 on Southern European Societies. Her present research interests are media, public opinion and armed forces.



Suvi Ronkainen (Finland)

is a professor of research methodology and vice-rector at the University of Lapland. She has broad experience on multidisciplinary teaching and is responsible for the methodological education and research education in four faculties. While her research focuses on domestic violence, gender and sexuality, her contemporary interests focus on practices of survey (quality and use of web-based techniques) and legal practices in relation to violence. She has led an international research network and belongs to COST-funded network on web-based data. She has published over 50 research texts.



Anne Ryen (Norway)

is an associate professor and the vice-dean at the faculty of economics and social sciences at the University of Agder. She has been the board member, vice-chair, and chair of the ESA RN 20 on qualitative methods. She was the local host of the ESF RN 20 Exploratory Workshop Improving the Quality of Qualitative Research. She was a member of the Scientific Committee for ISA RC 33 on logic and methodology. For the ESA Lisbon conference, her network organised 16 sessions, with 100 papers received. Her research interests include social welfare, fringe benefits in private business, gender, cross-cultural research, and qualitative methods.

Lekë Sokoli (Albania)

is professor of Marin Barleti University Tirana and the head of the department of sociology & psychology. He is the executive director of the Albanian Institute of Sociology and the director of the journal *Studime Sociale*. He teaches introduction to sociology, methods of scientific research, and social studies. He has written 23 books, each one a pioneer in its respective field in Albania. He is the founder of the Albanian Institute of Sociology, and founder of the first department of sociology in Albania, and the first journal of sociology.



Ilo Trajkovski (Republic of Macedonia)

is a full professor at Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. He teaches courses on political systems, human rights, political sociology, theory of non-violence, sociology of citizenship, and contemporary sociological theory. He has been a visiting professor at Arizona State University, New School for Social Research, Jagiellonian University in Poland, London School of Economics, and Strasbourg University. He has published a number of books and articles on sociology, civil society, civic education, sociological theory, politics of civil society, citizenship and multiculturalism. He has participated in several projects financed by USAID, World Bank, UNDP, CEPS, USAID, and CoE.

Georg Vobruba (Germany)

studied law, economics and sociology at the University of Vienna (Austria) and Freiburg i. Br. (FRG). He is the senior researcher at the Science Center in Berlin, the senior researcher at the Hamburger Institute for Social Research, a professor at the Institute of Sociology at the University of Leipzig, a visiting scholar at the Institute of Sociology at the Remarque Institute of New York University. He is the dean of the faculty of social sciences and philosophy at the University of Leipzig, a member of the Executive Board of the German Sociological Association, editor of *Soziologie* (Journal of the German Sociological Association), and a member of the Senate of the University of Leipzig.



Shalva Weil (Israel)

a graduate of L.S.E. and Sussex University, UK, is Senior Researcher at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She specializes in qualitative methods, migration, gender, violence, ritual and ethnicity. Her publications include 80 scientific articles e.g. in *Contributions to Indian Sociology, Man, and European Societies*; and several volumes, e.g. *Karmic Passages* (co-authored) (OUP 2009), *India's Jewish Heritage* (Marg, 3rd ed. 2009), and *Roots and Routes: Ethnicity and Migration in Global Perspective* (1999). She is president of the Society for the Study of Ethiopian Jewry. She coordinated the ESA RN 20 on Qualitative Methods; was an ESA Executive Committee member (2007-9); is a board member of RN 20, secretary of the Gender RN 33, and Editor of *European Sociologist*.

Frank Welz (Austria)

teaches sociology at Innsbruck University. He publishes on social theory, sociology of law and the history of the social sciences. From 2007, he coordinates the ESA RN 29 on social theory. He organized the network's midterm conference *Social theory and the sociological discipline(s)* at Innsbruck and coordinated further meetings in Lisbon, Prague and Geneva. He currently serves as the on-site organizer of the three-nation conference of the Austrian, German and Swiss Sociological Associations entitled *The new structural transformation of the public sphere*. Since 2009, he has served as vice-president of the Austrian Sociological Association.



CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF NAs



Roberto Cipriani (Italy)

is a professor of sociology and chair of the department of sciences of education at the University of Rome. He has also been the editor of "International Sociology," a member of the Executive Committees of the International Association of French-speaking Sociologists, and of the International Institute of Sociology. He has been president of the Italian Sociological Association. His publications include: *Sociology of Religion: An Historical Introduction*, which has been translated into French, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese, more than 750 articles, and 53 books in Italian, English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese and Russian.8



NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The Polish Sociological

Association

www.pts.org.pl

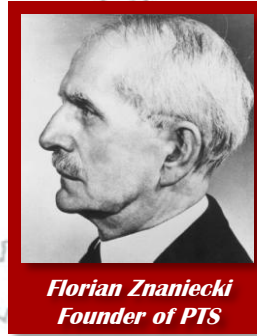
Grażyna Skąpska

The Polish Sociological Association (PTS), comprising approximately 1,300 members, is the primary association for sociologists in Poland. Its roots can be traced back to 1927 when Florian Znaniecki established the first such organization under the name of the Polish Sociological Institute. In 1931, at the first national convention of sociologists in Poznań, this evolved into a professional organization under the name of the Polish Sociological Association (Polskie Towarzystwo Socjologiczne). This association was one of the first of its type in the whole of Europe.

Despite the Stalinist outlaw of sociology in Poland in 1951, the field thrived after being readmitted to academic life in 1956. During Communist rule in Poland, although academic life was highly formalized and subject to ideological control and political pressure, the PTS remained fully autonomous of government intervention, encouraging critical debate. Throughout the rest of the 20th century, the PTS has reflected and deconstructed the vast changes in Polish society since World War II.

The largest event organized by the Polish Sociological Association is the Sociological Congress, which usually takes place every three years. The congresses have helped shape the development of sociology as a scholarly discipline, foster sociological knowledge within society, shape professional ethics among sociologists, represent the interests of its members in the scope of their academic activity, and encourage independent public debate in Poland. Often congresses reflect the changing social structure of Poland; for example, congresses organized after 1989 were particularly focused on post-Communist transformation and its unforeseeable outcomes, both theoretical and practical. By 2010 the PTS had held fourteen congresses altogether. In 2013 (September 11-14th) the XVth Congress will take place in Szczecin.

Current members are mainly employees of universities or of the Polish Academy of Sciences and research centers. However, graduates in sociology or other related fields of study, as well as people with achievements in sociology, can join the association. Both sociology students and those interested in the field can become associate members. Most of the members working outside academic institutions are involved in survey work and market research, or are social workers.



Florian Znaniecki
Founder of PTS



The Polish Sociological Association comprises the following sections:

- Sociology of Work
- Rural and Agricultural Sociology
- Sociology of Science
- Sociology of Deviation and Social Control
- Urban Sociology
- Social Anthropology
- Methodology of Social Studies
- Qualitative Sociology and Symbolic Interactionism
- Sociological Problems of National Security
- Sociology of Medicine
- Social Work
- Socio-technics
- Sociology of Law
- Sociology of Religion
- History of Sociology
- Students' Scientific Circles
- Sociology of Youth and Education

Polish Sociological Association publications include the proceedings of its conferences (in Polish) and the newsletters *Current Information* and *Bibliographical Information*, which are records of recent sociological publications in Poland.

The English language quarterly, *Polish Sociological Review* (formerly *Polish Sociological Bulletin*) publishes both papers devoted to Polish sociology and general theoretical papers.

Today, the Polish Sociological Association is organised in Warsaw by a President - Grażyna Skąpska - and a board consisting of 15 members elected for three years by the General Assembly of Delegates, the Association's highest authority. For further information, please contact: pts@ifispan.waw.pl



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between European Sociological Association and National Associations

The Executive Committee of the European Sociological Association and the National Sociological Associations from 21 different countries gathered in a meeting on 28 October 2010 in Paris and decided to sign this memorandum of understanding to demonstrate joint efforts to enhance cooperation, to reinforce their capacity to act and to be heard as the voice of sociologists in Europe.

A. ESA

Regarding the role of the ESA, we agreed that:

1. It is important to be involved in organizations that represent all scientists in Europe, making social science more visible also to policy makers. Thus, we persist in supporting the activities of the ISE, *Initiative for Science in Europe*.
2. It is important that we support the need for social science infrastructures in Europe. Hence, the relevance that European Institutions support financially basic tools like the *European Social Survey* and other existing databases, and that they use qualitative data, considering them as a fundamental infrastructure for social scientists and their research results.
3. It is important to create a *Social Science Forum* where scientists could bring together researchers and policy makers with the aim of exchanging ideas that might be crucial in the difficult moments in which we are living.
4. It is important to stress the disciplinary identity and the intellectual tradition of sociology, despite its long tradition of interdisciplinary practice and cooperation with other social sciences.
5. It is important that ESA is considered an association of sociologists capable of being one of the key actors for research and innovation in Europe, discussing with European Union policy makers and playing a fundamental role in political matters.

B. National Associations

The ESA National Associations can also provide a more substantial cooperation, with a significant role in connecting people since they organize several networks. Their role is essential to:

- improve communication among sociologists;
- develop supra-national and inter-regional research networks;
- relate macro and micro studies;
- integrate qualitative and quantitative studies;
- focus on global issues;
- share information on existing studies;
- identify problems common to countries;

They should also:

- have some space in their journals and newsletters for advertising ESA activities;
- have in their national boards a Vice-president or a specific representative for European relations who would act as a contact person with the ESA.

C. ESA and National Associations

ESA commits with the NAs in order to strengthen our relations and to work to concretize the following proposals by:

- providing a specific place in the website where NA conferences are announced;
- working for an on-line journal which could be open to all NA ESA members in order to integrate materials from other countries and in other languages;
- discussing with the *European Societies* Editor the possibility of having special issues on national sociologies;
- providing space for comparative work and discussing topics of common European interest during conferences (e.g. the Bologna process);
- reinforcing a platform for young people to organize workshops;
- guaranteeing a process of election for the representative of the NA Council on the ESA Executive Committee to be organized prior to the conference, thereby strengthening the links between the ESA and the NAs.



Signed by

Analia Torres, ESA President
Roberto Cipriani, Chair National Associations Council
Pekka Sulkunen, Chair External Relations Committee
Elena Oinas, ESA Executive Committee
Claire Wallace, ESA Executive Committee
Ursula Apitzsch, ESA Executive Committee
Consuelo Corradi, ESA Executive Committee
Leke Sokoli (Albanian Institute of Sociology),
Gevorg Poghosyan (Armenian Sociological Association),
Frank Welz (Austrian Sociological Association),
Robert Mears (British Sociological Association),
Svetla Koleva (Bulgarian Sociological Association),
Gorm Harste (Danish Sociological Association),
Arturo Rodriguez Morato (Federacion Española de Sociología),
Pertti Alasuutari (Westermarck Society – Finnish Sociological Society),
Daniel Bertaux (French Sociological Association),
Georg Vobruba (German Sociological Association),
Mihaly Csako (Hungarian Sociological Association),
Maria Nemenyi (Hungarian Sociological Association),
Shalva Weil (Israel Sociological Society),
Alessandro Bruschi (Italian Sociological Association),
Giovanni Bechelloni (Italian Sociological Association),
Ausra Maslauskaitė (Lithuanian Sociological Society),
Ilo Trajkovski (Association of Sociologists of the Republic of Macedonia),
Johan Fredrik Rye (Norwegian Sociological Association),
Ana Romão (Portuguese Sociological Association),
Elena Danilova (Russian Society of Sociologists),
Thomas Eberle (Swiss Sociological Association),
Aytul Kasapoglu (Sociology Association in Turkey).

IN THE LIMELIGHT

FOCUS ON PROF. ZYGMUNT BAUMAN^[1]

In this exclusive interview, which took place in February 2010 in Zygmunt Bauman's home in Leeds, UK, Editor Shalva Weil talked to one of Europe's most prolific scholars on sociology, identity and antisemitism. Published here for the first time are excerpts from a longer interview.

SW: As you know, my last interview for *European Sociologist* was with S. N. Eisenstadt. It strikes me that here is another Polish Jew of exactly the same age – both you and he were born in 1925, you in Poznan and he in Warsaw - and yet you never seem to reference him.

ZB: No. We didn't have any contact.

SW: You fled to Israel from Poland in 1968 after the antisemitic campaign led by Mieczyslaw Moczar (the Chief of the Polish Communist Secret Police). You lost your chair at the University of Warsaw and were forced to renounce Polish citizenship before leaving the country. Why did you leave Israel so soon, only three years later?

ZB: I was running away from Poland. I was a victim of nationalism. That's exactly what I dislike. And here was another nationalism I was invited to join.

SW: Were you accepted by the sociological community in Israel?

ZB: I don't think there was a sociological community in Israel. I worked both in Tel Aviv University and in Haifa University (not at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where Eisenstadt was head of the department of sociology) and there was no connection whatsoever. (Haifa, it is worth mentioning, had a pioneering, very young department of sociology, with people from kibbutzim, many Arab students and very cosmopolitan.) But there was little, if any communication, between sociologists in different universities.

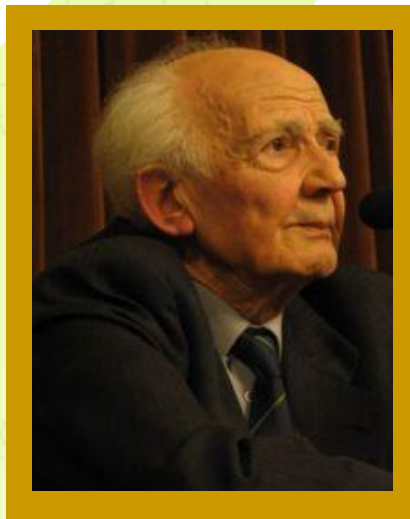
SW: In your writings, essentially you don't acknowledge Eisenstadt's type of Weberian sociology.

ZB: I guess we differed in our understanding of what sociology is for, what is its purpose, what are the motives for our actions. Sociology was created 150-200 years ago to serve an administered society for managerial reasons. Have you heard of Talcott Parsons? Sociologists today often forget him. I would like to forget but I can't!

SW: He was the ultimate structural-functionalist!

ZB: In Parsons' view, sociology struggled for an answer to the "Hobbesian question": how come humans, being voluntary agents, behave nevertheless in a regular, patterned way? He believed that he finally resolved the puzzle. Once we know the answer, we may use it to prompt people to respond in appropriate and desirable ways to purposefully designed settings – the kind of capacity needed by managers to achieve disciplined, predictable behavior of the managed. The major preoccupation of Parsons-style sociology was the design of a self-equilibrating, pattern-maintaining and deviation-preventing social system; not the kind of interest I shared...

I don't know whether you followed the debate which Michael Burawoy, among others, initiated – about sociology in danger of losing contact with "public arena?"



SW: We met him in the ESA's Lisbon conference, where he was a plenary speaker.

ZB: Well, the real problem was that the clients aimed by the Parsons' style, behavior-managing sociology have lost interest in the services that sociology was trained and wished to supply. Managers currently don't want to manage, resent cumbersome responsibilities for the effects of other people's actions; they prefer to contract them out, "outsource," "hive off" or "subsidiarize" to their subordinates. The general strategy, as Ulrich Beck points out, is to leave it to the individuals to seek and find individual solutions to problems and take upon themselves responsibility for the result of their search and choices. The tendency is universal. Many of the functions previously expected to be performed and promised to be performed by the state and communal institutions are now "trickled down" to the area named by Anthony Giddens "life politics" – the kind of area in which each one of us individually uses one's own resources, stamina, ingenuity, reason, skills and judgment, combining the roles of parliament, government and the Supreme Court. There is no one to complain to or about once you fail...

SW: You talk a lot about modernity, but once there was a distinction between traditional society and modern societies. Are you hankering after the traditional society which was based on extended kinship, communal workings and chiefdoms? You never write about traditional societies! Don't you think it's relevant?

^[1] For further information, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zygmunt_Bauman

ZB: It is not that community was a pre-modern form of togetherness replaced by society, a modern formation – as Ferdinand Toennies wished us to believe. *Societas* and *communitas*, as Victor Turner pointed out, are two inseparable aspects of the same social reality. One or another of those aspects comes at various times to the fore of public attention and concerns. Tremendous popularity of “social websites” is often (erroneously) represented as a “community turn.” In fact the “networks” young people are nowadays busily constructing (only to dismantle or abandon them shortly afterwards) bear only pale similarity to “communities” of yore – something I described too often to repeat it once more. In a nutshell, “networks” are so popular because of the facility of dis-connecting they offer but which the old communities were up in arms against.

The bonds are nowadays eminently fragile; they are easily tied up and equally easily torn asunder. Young people prefer to live together with no commitment rather than getting married; they would rather change their partner in case of disagreement than work hard on making relationship mutually gratifying. They yearn for love – but love is not a “found object” – but something that thrives only if you tend to it day in, day out.

SW: You also write a lot about the future and the quest for Utopia. It strikes me as such a terribly Jewish preoccupation to talk about the future, the Redemption.

ZB: That's the Jewish contribution to human culture, the utopian ideal, the redemption idea. That's what allowed Jews to survive for several thousands of years.

SW: Your book *Modernity and the Holocaust* (1989) made a big stir when it first came out. You deal with philosophical subjects like evil and morality, but how could you write about these religious subjects without writing about God and faith?

ZB: In the book there are two chapters on the history of antisemitism, dedicated to the difference between the old-fashioned Judeophobia and modern antisemitism. For 2,000 years, Jews were hated in the Christian world because of their faith and refusal of conversion to Christianity. For modern antisemitism, no amount of holy water would exonerate the Jew of his inborn iniquity. Hitler charged Jews with every imaginable evil but never with the responsibility for crucifying Christ.

SW: Did people know you were a Jew in Poland before the Second World War or did you hide it?

ZB: Of course they knew. In the area of Poznan where I was born and lived until the War, my parents, my sister and myself were the only Jews. Against such background, I was too conspicuous to hide! All local hooligans vied for the right to kick me. In 1938, only I and one more boy were admitted to the only secondary school in Poznan which practiced numerus clausus instead of the numerus nullus, as the rest.

After the War, it was different – for me at least. I had no personal experience of antisemitism until the 1960's. Then I was publicly declared a Zionist by the communist authorities still reluctant to say in public that my sin was being a Jew.

SW: Have you been following the movement against philosophers by the Hungarian government? Jürgen Habermas has called on the European Union to investigate and a petition has been sent out all over the world to protest.

ZB: I know Agnes Heller^[21], the formidable philosopher, very well – and respect her deeply.

SW: I have a list of those accused. All the philosophers are Jewish by chance.

ZB: The assault, conducted by a very right-wing government, is aimed against intellectuals in general, all or most of them being of critical mind and many of them Jewish. This is not mere coincidence. It is not completely clear whether Jews are attacked because they are intellectuals or whether intellectuals are attacked because they are Jews...

SW: You once wrote that we shouldn't set up so many Holocaust memorials in different countries, but is the alternative to forget?

ZB: Hitler failed to destroy Jews but he was more successful in destroying the possibility of mutual reconciliation between Jews and the non-Jewish world. Claiming uniqueness of that crime and making the Holocaust an exclusively Jewish affair assists in that pernicious heritage of Hitler.

SW: So basically you're against all these memorials and museums?

ZB: Not that simple... The point is that I believe that the duty of Jews, as the victims of crime committed against humanity, is to bear witness to the evils of inhumanity – in all its varieties, styles and choices of victims.

SW: There was an attack on you launched by a historian Bogdan Musial in the German press, based on an article in a Polish right-wing paper *Ozon*, accusing you of cooperating in the cleansing of opponents of the Polish regime after the War. Do you want to say anything about this to me? In the conversation with *The Guardian*, you said that you worked in the KBW (the Internal Security Corps in Poland).^[31]

ZB: No “secret” has been “discovered” by that “historian.” I described my post-war story in full in a book, available however to the Polish, but not German readers. I fought Nazis in the ranks of the 4th Division of the Polish Army, which, after the war, was incorporated in full into the newly formed KBW, in which I served for seven years. And I never kept secret my commitment to communism in post-war years, and the conviction I held then that the communists had the best program how to raise Poland from the depth of devastation left by the years of war and foreign occupation.

SW: Returning to today, why did you stay in Leeds?

ZB: For forty years I lived there – with Janina.^[41] These were the best years of my life. If you must be foreigner, the best place to be is in England.



^[21] Professor of philosophy in Budapest, recipient of the Lessing and Hannah Arendt Prizes and the Goethe Medal.

^[31] <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2007/apr/28/academicexperts.highereducation/print>

^[41] Janina Bauman (1926-2009) was the author of two autobiographical volumes, *Winter in the Morning: a Young Girl's Life in the Warsaw Ghetto 1939-1945* (Simon and Schuster 1986), based on diaries she kept as a teenage girl in the Warsaw ghetto, and *A Dream of Belonging: My Years in Post-War Poland* (Virago 1991). In March 1948, while studying journalism at the Warsaw Academy of Social Sciences, she married Zigmunt.

Letter from Helga Nowotny, ERC President



Dear colleagues,

The European Commission is currently preparing the next multi-annual framework program for research and innovation under its new name, "Horizon 2020." More important than terminology is the fact that EU funding has become an important contributor to the establishment of the science-based knowledge society in Europe. The social sciences have their share in it, despite frequently voiced anxieties about being marginalized. If EU funding is to adapt more to the needs of researchers and scholars, simplification and increased flexibility are indispensable. Anyone who has participated in an EU-funded research project knows what I am talking about.

As president of the European Research Council ([ERC](#)), I am closely observing the ongoing developments. The ERC is the "Ideas" part of the "Seventh Framework Programme" (FP7). It differs from the other parts of the programme in some unique features. It is governed by an autonomous Scientific Council, a body of 22 eminent European researchers from all fields of science and scholarship, who broadly represent the scientific community. The implementation is entrusted to the ERC Executive Agency. The ERC's mission is to fund, in a genuine bottom-up approach, "frontier research" projects with a single Principle Investigator and his/her team based in one host institution within the EU or an Associated Country. Following the principle of "excellence only," there will neither be place for consortia or research networks, nor for thematic priorities. Since its establishment in 2007, the ERC has become widely recognized as a success story. It enjoys a high reputation and credibility throughout the entire scientific community.

The ERC has established a rigorous evaluation procedure. Following a holistic approach in the tradition of "Wissenschaft," it funds projects from all fields of knowledge production. Thus, the ERC is not only the most prestigious funding body within FP7, but it also dedicates a much higher share to the social sciences and humanities than other programmes within FP7. It is well known that funding affects the way research is carried out. The ERC, in my opinion, will particularly influence the social sciences in Europe, not just because it invests large sums of money, but also through the way its requirements are set up.

The social sciences have always been characterized by debates among its leading figures about epistemological, ontological, or methodological core questions. Debates rage about its future orientation and place, both within society at large and its relations especially with the natural sciences. Two topics continue to resurface. One is about being too inward-looking with too narrow a focus on traditional disciplines. The other is the recognition that the social sciences, in almost all disciplines, are still bound, conceptually and methodologically, by the nation state in whose shadow they originated.

Why does the ERC matter in this regard? It offers a unique opportunity to transcend disciplinary boundaries and the strictures of a too narrow, national framing of research problems. All ERC evaluation panels are set up in a multi-disciplinary way. For example, panel SH2 "Institutions, Values and Beliefs, and Behaviour" deals with, inter alia, sociological research proposals and consists of experts from fields such as sociology, political science, social anthropology, law, religious studies, communication studies, science and technology studies. Already this composition and the emerging ERC 'evaluation culture' sends an important signal: proposals that intend to tackle well-articulated and profound research problems at the frontier of already known knowledge in a forward-looking, original way fare much better in the evaluation process than proposals that remain within disciplinary and/or national boundaries.

Questions transcending national borders, be they cognitive, political or cultural, are thus highly welcome. The approximately sixty members of the current four sets of the SH2 panels come from more than twenty different countries, inside and outside of Europe. (All ERC panel members are selected by the Scientific Council and are currently working in host institutions in fifty-eight different countries). In contrast to some national funding organizations, the ERC does not require research questions to bear a 'national' stamp. On the contrary, it invites new and daring questions in an unprecedented way, thus offering the ideal funding instrument for the social sciences to push beyond national boundaries for the globalizing world of the 21st century.

While worries exist that EU budgets will be cut in general, with the social sciences being hit disproportionately, social scientists are also beginning to better coordinate their efforts and to make their voice heard publicly. Whatever the outcome, excellent frontier research in the social sciences and humanities will continue to have its fair share in ERC funding.

What's New with RNs?

Focus on RN 29 on Social Theory

Frank Welz, RN 29 coordinator

In the fifth article in this series, *European Sociologist* takes an inside look at Research Network No. 29 on Social Theory
<http://www.social-theory.eu>

Social theory is central to sociology in that it aims to explore the theoretical underpinnings of the significant questions of macro-historical change, such as ongoing global transformations, including "turbulent times." Social theory encompasses all sub-fields of sociology in that it offers concepts and ontologies that provide sociological research with conceptual and methodological tools. Accordingly, the RN 29 on social theory seeks to pervade the discipline by fostering debates and communication and serves as a platform for joint research and publications. Social theory extends beyond sociological theory. While many link the term "sociological theory" with strictly empirical research and hypothesis testing, "social theory" instead emphasizes the transdisciplinary and hermeneutic dimension by including contextual, interpretive research methods. For others, social theory means sociological theory in the European tradition. For them, European social sciences including sociology are rooted in the humanities, and emphasize the historical roots of societal transformation.

The classics of sociology were amongst the first to carry out this theoretically informed empirical research. From the early 20th century onwards, their influential work was globally read and re-interpreted, which in turn provided Europeans a new framework to study society. However, the more recently influential work of Bauman, Beck, Bourdieu, Elias, Foucault, Giddens, Latour, Luhmann and Habermas, to name only a few, has ushered in a new era of European social theory. Thus, the RN 29 provides a venue for allowing discussion of multiple theoretical traditions. It is imperative for social theorists to have such a venue in order to remain engaged with the widespread changes occurring in Europe.

Despite the long tradition of social theory, the RN 29 has a short history. At the ESA conference in Amsterdam in 1999, participants expressed the need for a RN on social theory which led to the inauguration of the new RN at the conference on "European Social Theory at the turn of the Millennium" in December 2000 in Copenhagen. The RN has been successful and has since organized various sessions at ESA conferences in Helsinki (2001), Murcia (2003), Torun (2005), Glasgow (2007), and Lisbon (2009). The RN has helped to organize further intermediate conferences in Moscow (2002), Paris (2004), Madrid (2006), Innsbruck (2008), and Prague (2010). Two of our recent midterm meetings may shed light on the inner pulse of our discussions:



In 2008 at Innsbruck, the theme was "Social Theory and the (Sub)Disciplines." In contrast to sociology's continual splicing off into new themes and distancing from subfield-transcending questions, papers focused on how social theory transcends the breadth of sociological studies.

In 2010 at Prague, the topic was "Controversies in Contexts." Discussion centered on, theoretically, whether knowledge is determined by context and, empirically, what those institutional and intellectual contexts are. These conversations included ongoing debates regarding the quite heterogeneous national streams of sociology in Europe.

All our meetings include open-submission sessions. Some themes are in great demand (for example, contemporary, classical, and critical social theory and philosophy of social science) and therefore we continuously offer them. At our biennial midterm conferences, we have implemented a very successful practice of selecting keynote speakers from the pool of paper submitters. Recently opening and closing lectures were offered by John Holmwood, Gesa Lindemann, Roland Robertson, and Philip Selznick.

At ESA conferences, we emphatically aim to include the overall conference theme. They are also the place where RN elections are held. In 2009 at Lisbon the following colleagues were elected to the RN 29 Executive Board: Jan Balon (Prague), Svetlana Kirdina (Moscow), Gesa Lindemann (Oldenburg), Kevin McSorley (Portsmouth), Csaba Szalo (Brno, co-coordinator), Gilles Verpraet (Paris), and Frank Welz (Innsbruck, coordinator) - frank.welz@uibk.ac.at

The RN's website contains more information on social theory conferences, centres and programs, teaching resources (syllabi, videos), RN members, and it will include an interactive European map on "Sociology's Ten Most Influential Books." The next midterm meeting will take place in 2012 in Athens!

ESA PhD Workshop

Prior to the large conference in Geneva beginning on 7 September 2011, the ESA PhD Workshop will take place, discussing the conference theme of "Social Relations in Turbulent Times." Here is the programme!

Monday, 5 September 2011

9.00 Registration and Introduction
Ellen Kuhlmann and Elina Oinas (ESA PhD Committee)
and Sandro Cattacin (University of Geneva, Chair of Local Organising Committee)

9.30 Sociology and Social Relations in Turbulent Times
Analia Torres, ESA President, ISCTE-IUL, Lisbon University Institute, Portugal

10.30-11.00 Coffee/tea break

11.00 Constructing Agency in Modern Sociological Theory
Pekka Sulkunen, University of Helsinki, Finland

12.00 Culture and Identity
Thomas Eberle, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland

14.30-18.00 Parallel Workshops

Working Group 1: The Making and Unmaking of National Boundaries

Constructing Legitimacy for a New World: Transnational Identities in Making the Biographical Perspective

Marta Justyna Kowalska, UK

Love with Borders: Popular Patriotism in a Post-Socialist Context: The Case of Poland

Magdalena Kania Lundholm, Sweden

Eastern Slavic Diaspora Online: The Implications of 'Imagined Community'

Ivan Kozachenko, UK

Symbolic Boundaries and Meaningful Construction of Inequality: Marginalised Roma, NGOs and the State

Klara Vomastkova, Czech Republic

Immigration, Europe and the Nation: The Symbolic Politics of Romanian Migration to Spain and Italy

Simon McMahon, UK

Working Group 2: Transformations of Parenthood and Sexual Norms

The Social Construction of "Intellectual Disability" And the Sexual Norms

Lucie Nayak, Switzerland/Geneva

Trends in Unmarried and Unpartnered Motherhood in the Czech Republic

Martina Stipkova, Czech Republic

Fathering In Turbulent Times: Negotiating Competing Versions of Fatherhood in the Shadow of the Great Recession

Jeanna Parsons Leigh, Canada

Partner Relationships in the Life Paths of Women in Prison

Estibaliz De Miguel, Spain

Working Group 3: Social Inequalities In Globalising Societies

Paid And Unpaid Work: How Social Status Matters?

Pierre Bataille, Switzerland

The Institutionalisation of Inequalities in Participatory Urban Governance: The Case of a Slum-Upgrading Programme in Nairobi

Andrea Rigon, Ireland

The Differences In The Mobilization Of Health Strategies: Do Personal Education, Institutional Trust, and the Welfare State Types Contribute?

Rania F. Valeeva, Belgium

Shaping Discourse and Policy for Genetically Modified Food: Risk for Whom?

Renata Campos Motta, Germany

Working Group 4: Changing Public Policies

Sociological Approach to Doctor's Behaviour: Where Managerial Models Fail to Understand

Tiago Correia, Portugal

Hero or Helper? Finnish Social Workers' Actantial Position in Alcoholism Treatment

Michael Dieter Egerer, Finland

Decision Making Processes in Child Protection Cases – How Do We Decide What is the Best Interest of the Child?

Sandra Mestre Cunha, Portugal

National Security Threat and its Measurement: Protecting Society's Vital Infrastructures in Finland

Antti Silvast, Finland

Tuesday, 6 September 2011

9.00 Public Policy in Turbulent Societies
Ellen Kuhlmann, University Of Bath, UK

10.00 Citizens On The Move
Ursula Apitzsch, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany

11.00-11.30 Coffee/Tea Break

11.30 Writing And Publishing As A PhD Student
Elina Oinas, University Of Turku, Finland

12.30-14.00 Lunch Break

14.00-16.00 Parallel Workshops

Working Group 5: Work and Workers in Transition

Lost In Transition? Ambivalence and Contradictions of Part-Time Work's Evolution in Europe During the 2000's

Valeria Insarauto, France

The Few and the Many: Identity, Culture and Sociability of the Working Class in the Postsocialist Transition

Drazen Cepic, Italy

An Alternative Globalisation: The New Chinese Migrant Workers in France

Ya-Han Chuang, France

The Strategies of Business Education Students as a Predictor of Individual Perceptions of Success and of Business Ethics (Case of Russia)

Natalia Soboleva, Russia

Working Group 6: Institutions Matter: Social Integration In Turbulent Societies

European Participation by Pan-European Mobilization. A First Inquiry into Possibilities and Limits of the European Citizens' Initiative (Eci)

Stéphane Carrara, France

Italian Protestant Churches Between Past and Future: An Analysis of the Changes Occurring Within Minority Churches Due To Migration

Alessia Passarelli, Ireland

Organizing Muslims and Integrating Islam — An Organizational Sociological Study Of Muslim Umbrella Organizations In Germany

Kerstin Rosenow, Germany

"Open Your Eyes, Ref!" Can The Old Clichés Be Discarded? Elite Association Football Refereeing: A Comparative Analysis of England and Spain

Tom Webb, UK

16.00 Conclusion



Previous PhD workshop

Obituary: Ray Pahl, 1935-2011

By Claire Wallace

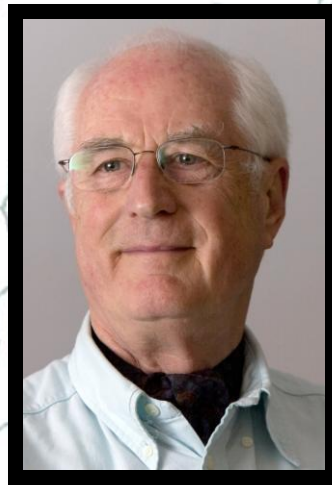
I first met Ray Pahl in 1978 when I joined his project studying the informal economy on the Isle of Sheppey. I took the shilling, as he put it, and started my doctoral studies with him in Sociology. This small exploratory study turned into a major research project, known as the "Sheppey Project," with a follow-up restudy now under the guidance of Graham Crow.

The Sheppey Project was read even at the highest levels of government as it shifted the way sociologists thought about work. Work was no longer simply located at a workplace between nine and five, but was rather something that was pervasive, protean and complex in terms of divisions of labour, divisions of genders and divisions of geography. Later, a series of articles with Jonathon Gershuny and the eventual book "Divisions of Labour" became a classic text and had a lasting impact on concepts of work.

By the time I met him, Ray Pahl's book "Whose City?" had already made a mark on research in urban sociology, as it brought a theoretical and empirical invigoration to the flagging field. His PhD thesis looking at how commuters reinvent village life with their urban imaginations was also widely influential. His research, together with Liz Spencer, on friendship as a bonding adhesive of social life helped shape views on modern society. This research led to the books "On Friendship" as a more philosophical reflection and "Rethinking Friendship: Hidden Solidarities Today" as a piece of empirical analysis.

However, Ray did not only philosophise about the world, he also tried to change it. From his work for the Greater London Development Inquiry in the 1970s, then later as part of the University Grants Committee, and then as part of the Archbishop of Canterbury's team for the report "Faith in the City", he was always involved in public reform. He continued this interest in his local community in Bishop's Castle, where he spent his latter years, including having shares in the local pub! He was proud to have encouraged Penguin books to bring great works at reasonable prices to a wide audience.

It was my privilege to count Ray Pahl as a friend. His energetic advice helped to jumpstart setting up the Central European University in Prague in the early 1990s as a way of educating a new generation of social scientists in the wake of the collapse of Communism. All of his projects were characterised by a restless intelligence, sharp mind and equally sharp tongue. Ray never courted easy popularity as he chose what he saw as the right, but often hard, way, regardless if he lost supporters along the way. His acerbic attacks on theories of class, on urban sociology and on community studies were all of this kind. Ray's rapier insights could slice through the candy floss constructions of social theory, of local government plans and of University administrations equally sharply.



Ray switched to working half time in 1984, in order to give himself space for independent reflection and research. It was his own way of managing "After Success," to cite the title of one of the books he wrote as a result. During this time, he worked for the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex to contribute to the "ideas factory" that was being built around the British Household Panel Survey and the Essex Data Archive by his old friends Jay Gershuny and David Rose. Ray continued to challenge British Sociology and contribute research ideas until the end of his life.

When he moved from Canterbury to a remote Shropshire village, many thought that his influential role would cease. Instead, he transformed his rambling, beautifully restored old house and garden into a convivial centre for intellectual exchange, filled with friends and colleagues. It housed the considerable art collection that he had amassed through judicious purchases and a keen eye, putting into practice his ideas of social capital, community and friendship. He continued to contribute regularly to British intellectual life and was composing a letter to the London Review of Books when he died.

Ray was never only a dry academic. He combined a stylish sense of personal flair with a Picassoesque romantic sensibility. His impact was certainly helped by his vivid, evocative and often barbed literary style. Many will remember his plangent phrases and metaphors, including those in his many contributions to "New Society," a popular magazine for the social sciences. He once gave me a picture of Don Quixote, which appropriately represented Ray's lack of fear to tilt at windmills, real or imaginary, or to destroy illusions and to build dreams. He was often the lone knight bravely storming the castles of muddled or meretricious thinking.

Ray Pahl died on June 3rd of cancer, aged 75. He leaves behind three children, seven grandchildren and many friends.