## RCHS

Research Committee on the History of Sociology International Sociological Association (ISA)

# **NEWSLETTER**

**April 1997** 

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## From the Secretary

This is an interim newsletter, when several matters of importance to us remain undecided or have not yet reached final form, so it is necessary to repeat some matters from the previous newsletter. Please give special attention to the item below, and make your contribution to finding our next organising body.

### **RCHS EC Elections**

A new Executive Council (EC) should take over the running of RCHS at the 1998 World Congress. Nominations were invited in the last newsletter, with a deadline of March 30th. The only ones so far received are for Dick Pels and Antoni Sulek as EC members; they are deemed elected, but the other places also need to be filled.

#### The deadline for nominations is, therefore, extended to June 30.

The EC consists of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and ten members, who hold office for 4 years. In practice it has become the custom that the Secretary does all the routine administrative work - keeping membership lists, putting together newsletters, organising meetings, responding to ISA requests. (Anyone interested in finding out more before deciding about a nomination is invited to get in touch with the current Secretary, preferably by e mail.) Other members are expected only to give their views on issues as they arise and to make an input of ideas, as well as publicising the RC among their contacts. The EC does not normally meet except at the biennial conferences.

Any paid-up member of RCHS who is *also* a member of the ISA is eligible for nomination to the EC; only those who are themselves currently paid-up members of RCHS can make nominations. The term of office is four years. The President and Vice-Presidents are not eligible for re-election to the same office for the next term, but other members of the EC may be elected to a second term; after two terms of membership they are immediately eligible only for the offices of President or Vice-President. Current members of the EC are: President, Lewis Coser\*; Vice-Presidents, Dirk Kaesler\* and Jennifer Platt\*; Secretary, Jennifer Platt; other members, Martin Albrow, Martin Bulmer\*, Nikolai Genov, Hans Joas, Henrika Kuklick, Birgitta Nedelmann, Guenther Roth, Edward Tiryakian\*, Kurt Wolff. Those current EC members with asterisks\* by their names are not eligible for re-election to the same positions; JP is not prepared to serve longer as Secretary.

Nominations are again invited now for all positions on the EC. A nomination form is provided on the back of this page, though this need not be used as long as the relevant inform-ation is included in what is sent. The new deadline for the submission of nominations is 30 June 1997; if an election is required, ballot papers will be in the next newsletter.

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## Leo P. Chall Dissertation Fellowship

You should by now have received the poster for this fellowship, and I hope that you have taken steps to draw it to the attention of your promising students. Please note, however, that there is an oversight on the poster that needs to be corrected: it gives my address without mentioning the country! There are clues, like the format of the postal code, which should indicate that it is a foreign country for those to whom it is, but they will not necessarily know which - so, if the poster is somewhere convenient, it would probably be a good idea if you could insert 'England' at the end of the address. Thank you!

The fellowship is for \$5000, for a PhD candidate writing a dissertation intended as a contribution to the history of sociology. Applications should be submitted to me by August 15, 1997; they will be considered by a sub-committee, which will make recommendations to the trustees, and the award will be made in November. Each applicant should submit the following information, in English: a précis of the dissertation proposal (3 pages, single spaced), including a description of the project, an explanation of how the research will contribute to the field, and a description of the work so far completed; plans for completing the dissertation; two letters of recommendation; a complete academic curriculum vitae, including exam results and grade transcripts where available and any publications; a list of previous awards or fellowships.

# World Congress: Montréal 1998

As a reminder to members, the World Congress sessions which have been proposed are listed below, with their organisers; these sessions will, of course, only run in practice if sufficient papers of good quality are offered which fit their remits. Members who are interested in giving papers should send the details direct to the relevant organisers as soon as possible. Papers must be in one of the ISA's official languages: English, French, or Spanish. Only papers by paid-up members of RCHS can be accepted, so if you wish to give one and your membership dues are not up to date you should pay as soon as convenient. (*See page? for a list of those members who should pay during 1997.*) The general deadline for submission of papers for consideration is 15 November 1997; session organisers may choose to set an earlier one for their sessions, so you are advised to contact them now.

### Planned World Congress sessions and organisers

The detailed time table of our sessions will be worked out later; the order in which they are listed below has no significance.

#### Construction of sociological knowledge in the colonial setting

This session will consider the history of sociology's encounter with colonial societies. Subjects such as the role of metropolitan research institutions, local centres of research, the role of indigenous knowledge, the origins of concepts and theories used to discuss colonial societies are some of the themes to be considered.

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Dr Lyn Schumaker, Wellcome Unit, Maths Tower, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, UK

# In search of a 'good society': the concept of sociology as a 'moral science' in the history of sociology.

The different courses of the concept of sociology as a scholarly enterprise to formulate scientific designs for the 'good society' in different national traditions; the historical processes of the 'scientific turn' after which even the idea of sociology as a 'moral science' was banned as unscientific; where does sociology stand in this discussion as we approach the 21st century?

Prof. Dirk Kaesler, Institut für Soziologie, Phillips-Universität Marburg, Am Grün 1, Fronhof, D-35037 Marburg, Germany; kaesler@nws.fb03.uni-marburg.de Dr Maarten Mentzel, 38 Johan de Wittstraat 38, 2334 AR Leiden, Netherlands; maartenm@sepa.tudelft.nl

#### National sociological associations

National sociological associations have been given little attention in the history of sociology, but they play a significant role in it both organisationally and intellectually, though that role has differed considerably from one country or period to another. This session will attempt to compare different associations and to relate them to their social contexts. The issues raised

may range from their internal organisation and membership to their external political roles, and will include both their intellectual functions and their concern for such matters as research funding and members' employment. (A detailed list of topics which it might be relevant to cover will be circulated to those interested.)

Prof. J. Platt, Arts E, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QN, Sussex, England; j.platt@sussex.ac.uk

#### Histories of the use of sociological concepts in sociological research

Concepts mediate the relationship between theory and empirical research. The focus would be on the history of such use of particular concepts; examples could include anomie, social cohesion, charisma, social class, party self-identification, self-reported illness, poverty, religious belief. Discussions of any suitable concept would be considered. Prof. Martin Bulmer, Dept. of Sociology, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH

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#### Interconnections between early sociology and social policy

The interventions of early sociologists in the practical, political arena of social policy. Dr. Rosalind Sydie, Dept. of Sociology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H4, Canada; rsydie@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca

#### The Myrdals and modernity

Gunnar Myrdal was born in 1898, and played a quite significant role in the diffusion of some important strands of thought, carrying Chicago School concepts to Sweden and instrumental reform-minded policy analysis to the USA. He was influenced by Max Weber (scientific value-relativism) and Axel Hägerstrom (Scandinavian legal realism), and was successful on the American scene. His career, moreover, manifests the role of American philanthropy in the development of European as well as American social science. There is rich source material on him which has hardly been utilised. Papers relating to Alva Myrdal as well are most welcome. The Myrdals wrote books and travelled together and contributed to the same project of modernity and piecemeal social engineering.

Key concepts: secularisation, intellectual migration, national styles of research, value freedom/-orientation, instrumental means/end analyses, anti-metaphysics, social engineering. Prof. Sven Eliaeson, Box 3524 Naset, Saxhyttan, S-712 94 Grythyttan, Sweden

#### East European traditions of sociology

(Further details available from proposer.)

Professor Dr. Hans-Peter Müller, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Philosophische Fakultät III, Fakultätsinstitut Sozialwissenschaften, Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin, Germany; hpmueller@sowi.hu-berlin.de

#### **Changing discourses in Eastern and Central Europe**

(Further details available from proposer.)

Dr. Eva Karadi, Dept. of Philosophy, University of Budapest, ELTE, Egyetem ter 1, H-1364 Budapest, Hungary; h3612tor@ella.hu

#### L'histoire de la sociologie canadienne / The history of Canadian sociology

Les thèmes suggérés sont les suivants: <u>les individus clefs</u>, surtout ceux qui n'ont particulièrement reçu beaucoup d'attention; <u>le développement de sociologies régionales</u> (du Québec, des Maritimes, de l'Ontario, des Prairies ou de la Colombie Britannique); <u>des liens historiques entre la sociologie et les autres disciplines</u> (ex. anthropologie, économie politique, études des femmes, histoire sociale, philosophie...); de l'histoire des <u>domaines substantifs</u>, <u>théories</u> ou <u>approches méthodologiques</u>.

Suggested topics include: key individuals, especially those who have not yet received a great deal of attention; the development of regional sociologies (British Columbia, the Prairies, Ontario, Québec, the Maritimes); the historical links between sociology and other disciplines (e.g. anthropology, philosophy, political economy, social history, women's studies...); the history of substantive areas, theories or methodological approaches.

Prof. R. Helmes-Hayes, Dept. of Sociology, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1; rhh@uwaterloo.ca

#### The history of sociology and the stabilisation of disciplinary identity

The debate around postmodernism has shown to what extent sociology is still far from being capable of drawing its boundaries towards either other social science disciplines or the free floating discourse of public opinion. This lack is often filled by resorting to the history of sociology as a way of stabilising a specific disciplinary identity. The session should therefore aim at investigating the role of the history of sociology by both mapping out the development of different historiographies, and questioning the performative function of their narration. In this light, a particular emphasis should be given to the constitution of a disciplinary canon and to the role attributed to the 'founding fathers' within it.

Dr Paolo Barbesino, CulCom, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RQ, Sussex, England; p.barbesino@sussex.ac.uk

Dr Salvino Salvaggio, Dept. de Sciences Sociales, Université de Liège, Bd du Rectorat 7 B31, 4000 Liège, Belgium; hqdss@vml.ulg.ac.be

#### Hegel's social theory

Despite the numerous references to Hegel in sociology and social theory insufficient attention has been paid to his ideas. This session would be devoted to helping to rectify this situation. Hegel is a dialectical thinker, and that means in part that he is one of the foremost thinkers who had a deep and abiding interest in social interaction at all levels. Topics in this session might include Hegel on recognition, on the family, the community, the society and the state, as well as his influence on sociological traditions.

Mr Christopher Adair-Toteff, American University in Bulgaria, 2700 Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria; CSAT@nws.aubg.bg

#### Fin-de siècle journals: the <u>Année Sociologique</u> and the <u>American Journal of Sociology</u>

1998 will be the 100th anniversary of the first publication of the <u>Année Sociologique</u>, which started with leadoff articles by Durkheim and Simmel; the <u>AJS</u> was already in its fourth year of publication. This session would enable participants to make comparisons regarding the contents, contributors, approaches and impacts of the two journals on their respective sides of the Atlantic.

Prof. E. A. Tiryakian, Dept. of Sociology, Duke University, Durham, NC 27706, U.S.A; etiry@soc.soc.duke.edu

#### Studies and restudies of communities

What can we learn from such studies about the history of sociology? This could be approached through looking at either classic one-off community studies, or restudies. Dr. Jean-Michel Chapoulie, 4 Allée de le Tournelle, 91370 Verrières-le-Buisson, France

# The founding of German sociology: intellectual origins and social contexts (Further details available from proposers.)

Dr Theresa Wobbe, Freie Universität Berlin, Institut für Soziologie, Babelsberger Strasse 14-16, 10715 Berlin, Germany

Dr. John P. Drysdale, 45015 Hampton Ave., Montréal, Québec H4A 2L1, Canada

#### Harriet Martineau and the theoretical foundations of modern sociology)

Papers are invited on the continuing relevance of this pioneering British sociologist's work in sociology today, the sociobiographical location of Martineau's ideas and intellectual networks, Martineau's shifting fortunes in the sociology of knowledge, and the epistemological origins of modern sociology exemplified in her work. Topics especially welcomed will include her theoretical positions and development over time, and the epistemological framework implicit in her translation /abridgment of Comte's <a href="Positive">Positive</a> Philosophy.

Dr Michael R. Hill, 2701 Sewell St., Lincoln, Nebraska 68502, USA

#### General session

This session is for papers which do not fit the remit of any other session. Only complete papers will be considered for it; an abstract is not sufficient.

Prof. J. Platt, Arts E, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QN, Sussex, England; j.platt@sussex.ac.uk

We (like every other RC) have been allocated a maximum of 14 time slots, though in some of those slots it will be possible to run parallel sessions if we wish; I hope we can as far as possible avoid that. One slot will be for our business meeting; at least one will also be a 'general' session, to allow the possibility of papers which do not fit well into any of the rubrics so far provided; we might wish to avoid meeting on the final Saturday. (Members with views on the timetable are invited to let the Secretary know of them.)



# Members' work in progress

Dieter Haselbach An essay on Franz Oppenheim

Hans Joas A book on the concept of value; studies in the history of sociological

theorizing about peace and war.

Jose Prades A critical reevaluation of Durkheim's work for the elaboration of a

sociological theory of the environment.

J. Joaquin Rodriguez-Gonzalez Developing a model of the main theoretical sociologies

inside the 'sociological network' that could be applied in empirical

research.

#### Recent publications by members



Gonzalo Catano	ed.) Jaime Jaramillo Uribe, <u>De la sociologia a la historia</u> ,

Bogota: Universidad de los Andes, 1994.

Gonzalo Catano 'El filosofo Rafael Carrillo', Ideas y Valores 101: 3-23, 1996. 'Gerardo Molina: las condiciones sociales de la libertad', Gonzalo Catano

Revista Derecho del Estado 1: 147-160, 1997.

Lars Clausen 'Nestor of German sociology: Ferdinand Tönnies', pp.95-102

ed. B. Schäfers, Sociology in Germany: Development in Institutionalisation - Theoretical Disputes, 1994, on the

occasion of the XIII World Congress of Sociology.

'Durkheim et l'impératif de réduction de complexité', pp.119-Jacques Coenen-Huther

130 in ed. Ch.-H. Cuin, Durkheim d'un siècle à l'autre, Paris:

Presses Universtaires de France, 1997.

'L'observation participante et l'épistemologie piagétienne', Jacques Coenen-Huther

Revue européenne des sciences sociales 34: 133-140,

1996.

J. Joaquin Rodriguez-Teoria Sociologica y Sociologia del Conocimiento en la Obra

Gonzalez

1996.

Jennifer Platt

Klaus Lichtblau Kulturkrise und Soziologie um die Jahrhundertwende. Zur

Genealogie der Kultursoziologie in Deutschland, Frankfurt am

Leopold von Wiese, Editorial Universidad del Pais Vasco,

Main: Suhrkamp, 1996.

Georg Simmel, Frankfurt am Main: Campus Verlag, 1997. Klaus Lichtblau

'The history of the ISA: a preliminary sketch', ISA Bulletin 71:

11-16, 1997.

Jennifer Platt 'Work in progress on the history of the British Sociological

Association', pp. 87-90 in ed. M.C Cheung,

Psychological Concepts from Philosophical and Historical Perspectives,

Leicester: British Psychological Society, 1997.

Luigi Tomasi (ed.) La Scuola sociologica di Chicago, Milan: Franco Angeli, 1997.

Vera Vratusa-Zunjic Development, Religion, War, Belgrade, Institute for

Sociological Research 1995.

## **News and Notes**

Please note that the addresses and/or e mail numbers of the following members have changed recently: Gonzalo Catano, Sven Eliaeson, Salvino Salvaggio, and Antoni Sulek. Their new addresses are given in the list towards the end of this newsletter.

Vera Vratusa-Zunjic's e mail number was given wrongly in the last newsletter; the correct version is vratusaz@afrodita.rcub.bg.ac.yu. However, that is sometimes out of order, in which case she uses vvratusa@dekart.f.bg.ac.yu

## RCHS and internationalisation of sociology

As part of work on the general history of the ISA, I am compiling material on RCs, including this one. This work is at an early stage; below is part, on this RC, of a first draft on the extent to which the RCs have contributed to the internationalisation of sociology, part of the ISA's remit. It is put forward here in the hope that members will contribute to the work by their comments, on substance or method, and by providing material; it would be especially helpful to have details of activities before 1984, which are not in the inherited secretarial files. Thank you for your assistance!

Jennifer Platt.

RCHS has had a more restricted national range than many of the other RCs; one may presume that, since there is a strong tendency in all fields to work on one's own society, the obvious fact that not many societies have a long history of institutionalised sociology has set natural limits. In the three books known of papers contributed by RC members, almost all the papers are on single countries, though the editors attempt some overview or synthesis. The coverage of papers offered at meetings has also been quite restricted. The first sessions of RCHS, at the World Congress in 1974, were mostly under the rubric of 'Cross-National Influences in the Development of Sociology', but since then there does not appear to have been a systematic internationalisation of content or themes beyond that implied by openness to contributions from the widest possible range of countries. The programme for the 1978 World Congress<sup>1</sup> adequately represents the general tendency of the programmes: 'Major Traditions in the history of sociology (Weber - 3 papers)', 'Major Traditions in the history of sociology (Durkheim - 7 papers), 'Major Traditions in the history of sociology (Durkheimians - 12 papers), 'Sociology in other countries' - 3 papers, 'Major Traditions in the history of sociology IV - 2 papers, plus 2 more sessions with a total of 8 papers. Exceptions to this generalisation are that in 1990 there was one session (of 12) on 'Processes of international-isation in contemporary sociology', in 1992 one (of five) on 'Global issues in the history of sociology', and in 1996 one (of 13) on 'International exchange and globalisation in the development of the social sciences'. Those apart, only individual papers which could be regarded as relevant to internationalism have been offered - for instance, on the effects of migration, or on the reception of authors in other countries. Whether this pattern represents committee policy, or simply what members spontaneously offer, is not known for the earlier period; from 1990 on, session topics have emerged from those volunteered by members rather than from any overall policy, though session organisers may have invited individual papers.

But other criteria of internationalism may also be applied to the content of papers given. A classification has been attempted: papers on topics from the author's own country (including its founding fathers), papers on the generally-recognised founding fathers (FF) from countries other than the authors' own, papers on other aspects of countries other than the authors' own, and comparative papers; it is assumed that this may be taken to represent increasing levels of internationalism. (The category 'no country' is a residual one, including

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The data used are those in the RC's newsletter; this means that some papers which in the end were not actually given will have been counted.

papers on such topics as general methodological ones.)<sup>2</sup> This can only be applied to the meetings on which data about individual papers offered are to hand, which starts in 1984.

Percentages of RCHS conference papers in different categories

Topic:	1984	1986*	1988	1990*	1992	1994*	1996	total	total
Own country	42	63**	29	37	23	35	28	50	37
FF, other country	11	6	19	20	0	7	7	16	12
Other, other country	24	18	24	16	32	25	23	29	22
Comparative	16	2	5	2	5	3	2	5	4
No country	8	10	22	26	41	29	40		26
N	38	49	58	112	22	96	60	324	435

These figures should not be taken too seriously, given the difficult decisions necessarily made in compiling them. However, they show that over the years exactly half of the papers about any country, and just over a third of the total, were about the author's own country - and, for the reasons given, that figure is likely to be substantively an underestimate - while just over half those about another country were on FF; there were very few comparative papers.

More impressionistically, the compilation of the figures showed that a high proportion of all papers were on individual thinkers; ones on broader national topics were rare. ('Compa-rative' papers were often only comparing two thinkers from different countries.) A high proportion of the 'other country' papers were in fact contributed by authors known or suspected to be natives of the country studied, whenever they left it, though now working in another for which they have been counted. Work done on other countries was normally either on FFs, *or* by migrants to dominant countries on their own countries of origin, *or* by nationals of other countries on the sociology of dominant countries. The dominant country in question is usually the USA. Interestingly, there are few papers by US authors on US topics. This may reflect the extent to which history of sociology has been on theoretical themes, and US theoreticians have been migrants from European countries who have retained the interests of their origins. Clearly there is room for much more detailed analysis, empirical and conceptual.

The pattern of RC Board membership shows the US as most heavily represented, but the high proportion of US members who have been immigrants modifies the meaning of that. Given the historical distribution of sociology, the narrow range of countries represented might be predictable; however, that would make France and Italy's under-representation surprising.

In general, this RC has brought together members of a fair *number* but by world standards a narrow *range* of countries. It does not seem to have contributed significantly to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Some awkward methodological decisions need to be made here. Is 'own country' that of current employment? migrations mean that this will underestimate the extent of work on countries of origin. Migration patterns among those studied are also relevant: does Mannheim count only as Hungarian, and Elias as German? The complications of circumstances in different cases are such that ad hoc decisions have been made, rather than attempting to specify a general rule. Another area of decision is who to count as a 'founding father'. Here it was decided to count only those who are most unequivocally internationally recognised in that role: Marx, Weber, and Durkheim. This gives a rather misleading impression, as many of the papers classified as 'on other aspects' were actually on Mannheim, Spencer, Parsons, Elias, and other internationally prominent individuals. Papers on the reception in one country of work done in another were treated as about the country of reception; this leads to underestimation of the numbers of papers concerned with the work of prominent thinkers, since it was commonly their reception which was in question. Papers classified as on 'no country' may de facto have been on one country, but only in the case of 2 papers by myself have I treated them as on a country when the title did not indicate it.

comparative work, though it has probably helped to create a cross-national community of scholars interested in the same key ancestral figures. Interesting questions are raised about how the focus on 'founding fathers' should be regarded in relation to more general ideas on the internationalisation or globalisation of sociology.

\$\$\$ Dues Reminder \$\$\$

Members whose names are listed below will cease to be members unless they renew their membership in the course of 1997. Names will be removed from the membership list if the renewal has not been made by Nov.15th, the deadline for submission of World Congress papers, unless the Secretary has been informed of any special reason for delay. **This is really the last individual reminder, so please act on it!** Whenever you pay during the year, the renewal will be dated from the day when your current membership expires, so from that point of view you will neither lose nor gain by renewing on a particular date. Prompt action will be very much appreciated, and save potential embarrassment if we have to reject your paper or remove your name as a session organiser. Thank you very much.

Alexander Hill Natsukari Stanzione Kajitani Nedelmann Buxton Sun Korte Chanthanom Nemedi Tarr Deegan Kurzweil Roth Watson Fisher Winkler Lecuver Saram Genov Llobera Yamashita Segre Halfmann McLaughlin Skretkowicz Zabludovsky

## Members' addresses

E mail numbers, where known, appear at the end of addresses, after the name of the country in capital letters; be careful not to confuse these with postal codes!

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