

**International Sociological Association  
Research Committee Futures Research (RC07)**

# **Future Moves**

**Markets, Politics, and Publics in Global and Comparative Perspective**

**Program Coordinator  
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**XVII World Congress of Sociology  
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## **International Sociological Association Research Committee 07 Futures Research (ISARC07)**

The International Sociological Association Research Committee 07 Futures Research (ISARC07) was founded in 1971 and is dedicated to the promotion of future-oriented social research. A newsletter with details of ISARC07's activities is published about once or twice a year. For more information on how to become a member, please visit our website at: <<http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc07.htm>>.

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# Future Moves for Göteborg

This special edition of our newsletter presents final program updates and abstracts for the XVII World Congress of Sociology in Gothenburg, Sweden. We are excited about the enthusiastic response to our Call for Papers and thank the over two hundred authors and session chairs who contributed so many promising proposals. Our program tackles the great challenges of our time from a rich diversity of perspectives. It engages with globalization, inequality, crises, terror, the environment, new technologies, media, social movements, education, work, and leisure, among many other salient topics. The latest practical information is provided in the last section.

The program for Gothenburg continues in many ways the vibrant discussions from the Barcelona Forum. The motto “Future Moves” is meant to resonate with the congress’s overall theme of “Sociology on the Move” and its concern for social change. The expression “Future Moves” contains multiple meanings. It refers to the fact that the future is not something static but constantly moving. The future is moving as it is consumed by the present, and it is also moving as the actors in the present change their visions about what they deem possible, likely, or desirable. And visions of the future can also be seen as drivers that motivate or push actors of the present to do certain things but not others. Future visions can be contested resources that provide meaning for action in the present. Last but not least, the motto also refers to sociology’s own future moves, i.e. the next steps in its development as a discipline and its efforts to address the future. The Barcelona Forum emphasized sociology’s relation to public debate; the Gothenburg congress makes the question of sociology’s relevance central. To make sociology more relevant, more direct engagement with the future is needed.

In many of today’s national sociologies, the future appears spectacularly neglected. Why is that so? Among the complex and locally varying reasons, one view seems to be particularly wide-spread. It holds against dealing with the future the fact that we cannot know anything about it. And since we ought not to talk about what we cannot know, we should hence be better quiet about it.

This position runs counter to the fact that we all lead our daily lives based on innumerable assumptions about the future, short-term and long-term, small and large. Whether we deem something to be possible or impossible, likely or unlikely, desirable or undesirable has consequences. Anticipation, aspiration, expectation, hope, imagination, planning, projection, and vision are all terms that refer to inherent aspects of future-oriented human action.

Once we accept the need for sociology to become more forward-looking the tricky questions begin of how to do it. How can we conceptualize the future? What are the most fruitful ways, and how do we assess competing modes of engagement? How do we identify the most relevant issues? What methodological tools are most promising for tackling the tasks ahead? Finding answers to these questions is a task to which a range of theoretical and empirical approaches can contribute.

In the past, the future was often assumed to be predestined, predetermined, or at least progressing in a certain direction and thus, with the proper approach, predictable. Religious beliefs in some future telos gave way to the positivist search for social laws, the knowledge of which sociologists in traditions from



Comte to Durkheim thought to be useful for managing or administrating society. Marx shared similar assumptions when he pronounced the laws of history would be pointing to a necessary triumph of the oppressed proletariat over the bourgeoisie, though he did recognize in his more empirical-historical writings that there were no historical automatisms but plenty of maneuvering room for contingent action.

The belief in an open future is the hallmark of the modern consciousness of time. As the historian Reinhart Koselleck noted, the “space of experience” and the “horizon of expectation” are increasingly disassociated. This fundamental contingency opens the horizon of the possible for social and political creation. What is could have been different. The existing reality could have been differently shaped through non-determined human action, in more or less reflexive as well as in more or less conflictive or cooperative ways. Deliberation about the consequences of alternative choices is, as the philosopher John Dewey emphasized, a measure of freedom.

This consciousness of the agency of the present is increasingly thematized in contemporary social theory through the inclusion of agentic social factors and multiple historical trajectories. The new consciousness found its expression in the emphasis on “imagination,” the “social imaginary,” “expectation, choice, and decision,” “the creativity of action” as well as in an explicit integration of the factor “human agency,” and in the conceptualizations of a “reflexive modernization” or “multiple modernities” (see works by Beck, Bell, Bello, the Bouldings, Castoriadis, Eisenstadt, Emirbayer, Joas, Masini, Nederveen Pieterse, Sassen, and Sztompka, to name just a very few). The increasing insight into the contingency of social shaping has spread across the borders of most diverse theory types. Even systems theory recognized the need to equip its “systems” with “dynamics” and an “autopoietic” capability that can autonomously conceive their respective futures (see Luhmann).

Sociology’s re-orientation towards the future can benefit from methodological pluralism and from a whole range of theoretical approaches, analytical and normative. Recent advances in action theories can help to overcome the positivistic restrictions and narrow instrumentalist rational choice models that seeped into futures research when its methodological toolbox was rebuilt in an attempt to increase scientific respectability. Theories of collective action and social movements can help to recognize alternative visions formulated from the grassroots and to gain a better understanding of political contestation. Time-diagnostic approaches can help to discern pertinent trends of our time. Critical theories can help to pinpoint the value decisions at stake, unmask the working of vested interests and pernicious power configurations, and identify the often differential consequences of policy choices for different sectors of society.

Pressing problems of increasing social inequality, set-backs in human rights discourse, profound climate change and environmental degradation demand broader and more forward-looking scholarship. The current economic crisis seems to have discredited narrow economic approaches that were dominant since the 1980s. Yet economics is still the primary discipline dealing with the future while a broader social-science perspective has not begun to fill the void quite yet. This is where sociology could bring in its ability to conceptualize the social making of and the changing relations between different social spheres, including markets, states, and publics. If sociology is to become more relevant it needs to embrace a more forward-looking orientation and engage with the critical issues of our time.

In this sense, the program for Gothenburg offers a space to reflect on society’s future moves and to orient sociology’s next steps. Several Joint Sessions are planned to promote encounters and dialogue with other RCs and to stem against the discipline’s trend towards fragmentation. Many thanks go to the members for sharing insights, contributing inspirations, and suggesting important session topics.

Markus S. Schulz

# Sessions Program

What are the most pertinent long-term trends globalizing society has to reckon with? What are the forces that shape our futures? What alternative visions are available? What factors nourish the social imagination, and what factors restrict it? What are, or should be, sociology's own future moves to meet the challenges of our time? The sessions of this program provide space for a broad spectrum of empirical, theoretical, and practical approaches as well as interdisciplinary collaboration.

Note: Please refer to the section on Practical Information at the end for due dates, format, logistics, and how to get to the venues. Please report any cancellations to the session chair(s) and program coordinator.

## **01. Globalization: Futures after the Crisis - Part A**

**Monday, July 12, 15:30-17:30 at Handels B22 (Vasagatan 1)**

**Chair:** Jan NEDERVEEN PIETERSE (UC Santa Barbara, USA) <jnp@global.ucsb.edu>

### **Presenters:**

**Aaron PITLUCK (Illinois State U, USA):**

#### **An Illiquid Future? The Social Production of Liquid Financial Markets**

**Abstract:** Globalization theorists typically characterize financial markets as “liquid,” where capital can be readily purchased or sold in global economic networks, so that trades can be completed nearly instantaneously. This premise of liquidity serves as the foundation for a number of social theories. For example, explanations of emotional, short-term herding behavior by investors are premised on high velocity, liquid markets. Similarly, the power of hedge funds in the global South assumes that they are capable of rapid entry and exit. In stark contrast to the above accounts, this paper argues that financial markets are normally illiquid, with brief temporal spikes of liquidity. As a consequence, professional investors in equities markets are large and frequently slow-moving behemoths, trading turgidly. This finding is based on over 125 ethnographic interviews with financial workers in Malaysia, secondary social surveys of financial workers in the US, cross-national statistics, and several econometric studies. The paper draws primarily on economic sociology, finance, and the market microstructure literatures. With a new imaginary of normally illiquid capital markets and slow-moving investors, diverse facets of the recent financial crisis can be perceived in a new light. Liquidity is fragile; difficult both to create and to maintain.

**Lynne CIOCHETTO (Massey U Wellington, New Zealand):**

#### **Profit, People, Planet**

**Abstract:** The proposed paper explores the BRIC thesis that Brazil, Russia, India and China will be the dominant economies by 2050 (Sachs, 2003) and assesses that idea in terms of the triple bottom line: profit, people, planet. The BRIC economies also encompass over 25% of the world's land area, 40% of the world's population and a combined GDP (PPP) of US\$15.435 trillion. What happens in these



economies, including their environmental issues, has significant effects on the rest of the world. The main focus will be on the environmental implications of patterns of industrial growth, rising standards of living and the continued expansion of consumerism along with issues of social justice for those people who contribute to the 'bottom billion', many of whom live in these nations.

**Martha C.E. VAN DER BLY (London School of Economics, UK):**

**Romantic Globalization: New Directions for Globalization after the Crisis**

Abstract: The logic of globalization was often thought to follow the logic of the dominant paradigm of the era that witnessed its emergence. In this paper, I suggest making a distinction between rational, or 'Classical Globalization', as we know it, with my novel concept of 'Romantic Globalization.' Based on research set in a global village and on a global island in Ireland, I describe the dissolution of classical rationalized globalization, with its intrinsic normative connotation, setting of uniform standards and plasticity of cultural forms into 'romantic globalization', molded by spirit—*Weltgeist*—and driven by both a search for unity and the desire to cross borders. In a world, struggling with the troubles of cultural polarization and uniformity and the now very obvious irrationalities of rationalism, romantic globalization shows the rationality of irrationality: for it is in the context of autonomy and love that innovation comes into being and that mankind realizes itself. In this paper, I argue that Romantic Globalization can set the agenda for the creation of an interconnected yet diversified world society, as an innovation from the periphery.

**Wolf SCHÄFER (Stony Brook, USA):**

**The Challenges of Global History and the Future of Area Studies**

Abstract: Area studies have settled down academically and lost their cutting edge. Fragmented in individual university institutes, centers, and programs, they have gained a seemingly secure place in the academy and become as inward-looking and boundary-conscious as regular university disciplines. It is an unintended consequence of their Cold War success that area studies are now increasingly at odds with the border-and-boundary-busting dynamics of the global age. Thus, a newly responsive, boundary-defying area studies approach is required. The rich regional expertise of area studies must be combined with fearless transdisciplinarity and intense cooperation among the experts of different world regions. Assuming that the challenge of global history warrants the defragmentation of area studies, scholars and university administrators have to answer the question, how does one defragment area studies safely? I will argue that the optimal way to defragment area studies is to join them under the umbrella of global studies.

Distributed Paper:

**Patricia Mooney NICKEL (Victoria U Wellington, New Zealand):**

**Post-Marxist Physics and the Designification of Populism as Critical Theory**

Abstract: Populism has historically acted as a tempering of the future orientation of industrial capitalism and now, somewhat paradoxically given industrial capitalism's evident failures, offers an alternative and perhaps post-industrial future. In this paper I explore the critical social imagination inherent to populism and its relevance to futures after the crisis. I contrast "post-Marxist" constructions of populism as a new positivist physics of politics, which subjects populism to the exact professionalized discourse that it opposes, with North American critical theory's considerations of populism as a critique of late capitalism.



## **02. Globalization: Futures after the Crisis - Part B**

Monday, July 12, 17:45-19:45 at Handels B22 (Vasagatan 1)

Chair: Jan NEDERVEEN PIETERSE (UC Santa Barbara, USA) <jnp@global.ucsb.edu>

Presenters:

**Björn HETTNE (U Gothenburg, Sweden):**

### **Global Governance for Global Development**

Abstract: This article discusses an emerging global development discourse as a possible alternative to the predominant ideology of market-led globalization. It is argued that the current global crisis has been a catalyst for discursive change, which implies ideational as well as societal transformation. Such change is typically associated with major economic crises, which furthermore have been increasingly globalized: the 1930s, the 1970s, and the present Great Recession. The question is what kind of global governance that will realize global development after the latest crisis. It is suggested that a multipolar world order is most likely, but it is uncertain whether this would mean a global concert of great powers, pursuing conventional realist power politics, or cooperating regions, giving expression to a more inclusive global ethics. The first section deals with the problem of identifying discursive change, using the idea of 'great transformations' as a point of departure. The second section discusses the relationship between crisis, discursive change and great transformation. The third one investigates the content of global development thinking emerging from the current crisis. The fourth section looks into possible patterns of global governance emanating from the present transformation. The last one explores the meaning of global ethics as essential for a sustainable world order.

**Jonathan FRIEDMAN (UCSD, USA):**

### **Declining Hegemony and the Current Crisis: An Anthropological Perspective**

Abstract: The current political economic crisis of the capitalist core of the world system, which is also a crisis of the system as a whole, will be argued to be a product of the longer term decline of Western hegemony and the accompanying rise of East and to a lesser extent South Asia. This crisis is a phenomenon, not new in itself, which ought to cripple the globalization discourse that has been so prominent in the past 20 years and which is very much an evolutionary and geographically homogenizing interpretation of what has been going on in the world. This discourse which has been dominant, if perhaps fading today, in anthropology and related cultural studies disciplines shall be discussed in light of this confrontation with a quite different global reality in an introductory section. The second theme is the way in which the crisis has been filtered through various ideological schemes, primarily economic and the way the latter can even be said to have been partly falsified by the reality of the crisis. This is primarily the case with respect to assumptions of general equilibrium that saturate many approaches to the understanding of socio-economic realities. These and other representations of the crisis shall be dealt with as fetishized elaborations that take on religious properties in such situations in ways that are broadly comparable to other culturally constructed reactions to crises in the forms of sorcery accusations and other types of "magical" thinking. The general argument is that capitalist orders as other social orders are fundamentally contradictory in structure and that in periods of crisis the contradictions become exacerbated by the very logics of practice that emerge in crises and that are themselves deductable from the more general properties of the systems in which they emerge. In other words what are called representations above are in fact an imaginary whose properties are the "real" experience of social life whose immediacy disables alternative analyses.



**Jan NEDERVEEN PIETERSE (UC Santa Barbara, USA):**

**Global Rebalancing**

Abstract: How about blaming crisis on 'excess savings' in Asia? How about solving domestic problems (US recovery) by pressure on East Asia (China's currency)? Can post-industrial societies stay afloat by pushing rising industrializing societies down? Is 'global rebalancing' the hegemonic utopia of the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Is where we're headed global plutocracy (now with Shanghai chic), or a multipolar world of different capitalisms and dynamic imbalances?

## **03. Environmental Futures**

**Monday, July 12, 20:00-22:00 at Handels B22 (Vasagatan 1)**

**Chair:** John URRY (Lancaster U, UK) <j.urry@lancaster.ac.uk>

**Presenters:**

**Brian HOWMAN (U Chester, UK): Peter COX (U of Chester, UK):**

**Environment and Class Conflict**

Abstract: This paper argues that the clash of interests visible in contemporary global environmental degradation, (e.g. human-induced climate change, resource depletion) constitutes a new form of class conflict. However, the increasing polarization of competing interests between the global bourgeoisie and the proletariat are today separated in time. We argue that class interests are now intergenerational, with future generations constituting a new proletariat who have no voice in a system of contemporary capital. The structuring of this intergenerational conflict was manifested and dramatically escalated in the new right project of the 1980s involving the dismantling of established manufacturing production in the early-industrialized nations. In this process, the emerging importance of refocusing production in ecologically sound forms was thus postponed and removed from consideration as production was relocated overseas. Further, when ecologically sustainable manufacturing is considered today, it is structured so as to disadvantage future generations in the new manufacturing locations, as they become disposed of traditional land and livelihoods and are prevented from enjoying the benefits accrued by the traditional industrial nations. The paper thus addresses the constitution of ecological class conflict, drawing upon eco-socialist critiques and revisiting left analyzes.

**Angela WARDELL-JOHNSON (U Chester, UK), Grant WARDELL-JOHNSON (Curtin UT, Australia), David TRIGGER (U Queensland, Australia):**

**Iconic Species: Biodiversity Values in Social Landscapes**

Abstract: Iconic species are frequently used as a means to focus society's attention in the conservation of ecological systems. Thus, the Geocrinia complex of frogs in the agriculturally diverse tourist region in the south-west of Western Australia forms the local focus for conservation NGOs to remind society of the consequences of certain land use practices. These species thus become iconic species within social contexts just as the better known Giant Panda has been used to represent the conservation focus of the World Wide Fund for Nature at a global scale. Landscapes of diverse human and biotic populations, such as those in the south-west of WA, comprise dynamic and interactive processes across incommensurate social and ecological scales. The premise for this research is that the agencies and organizations with an interest in biodiversity and resource management planning in Australia make use of underdeveloped intellectual and theoretical scaffolding to integrate these elements of biodiversity values. Decision-making thus reflects limited integration of processes and tools from disparate social, ecological and economic knowledge systems. This research reflects a transdisciplinary approach to

contexted collaboration between a range of knowledge systems to provide an insight into the social values inherent to biodiversity conservation planning across Australia and wherever threatened species are found. The research outcomes contribute a better understanding of the interactive dynamics between knowledge, community and social value systems that pertain to the construction and maintenance of resilience in rural landscapes.

**Chris EBERHARDT (New School for Social Research, USA):**

**Environmental Futures within Networks: Lessons from US-China Collaboration on Climate Change**

Abstract: Is the fact that China and the US together account for 40% (20%:20%) of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions just a matter for treaty negotiators, or are there important lessons for understanding environmental space? To varying extents in media including print publications and online videos individuals and organizations have demonstrated a desire to imagine China and the US as able to work together to address climate change. These efforts result from what the author calls publics, the intersections of networks of individuals circulating between international and domestic sites. But to what extent are these efforts shaping the imaginations of government leaders and private citizens in China and the US, leading to reductions in GHG emissions? Using interviews and participant observation in China and the US the author building on public sphere theory creates a new framework for understanding transnational environmental space. The paper demonstrates that transnational environmental space needs to be understood as a complex interweaving of publics with both government and public opinion facilitated by media. Using this new framework, the author argues it is then easier to understand the impacts of transnational efforts to address climate change more specifically and environmental issues more generally.

**Chia-Ling LAI (Tamkang U, Taiwan):**

**Performing Environmental Future through the Global Event: Analyzing the Sustainable Cosmopolitan Vision in the 2010 Shanghai World Expo**

Abstract: As an emergent global event, World Expo not only performs globality and cosmopolitanism under the competing international framework, but could also provide the creative new visions that dramatically transform the society on the global scale. This paper analyzes how the sustainable future of cities has been creatively imagined and performed by the competing national and corporate pavilions in the 2010 Shanghai World Expo. It first deals with the convergent power of the World Expo in providing cosmopolitan vision in the context of Shanghai as an Asian city. Then, it discusses the dilemma of representation between nationalism and globalization in the contemporary World Expo, especially when new technology is highly involved into the design to perform global issue of sustainability. The environmental future will then be imagined through the forms that are national cultures related, city culture oriented, materiality realized and new technology engaged. Multiple senses involved sustainable future represented in the World Expo as the general exhibition will also be discussed. Finally, this paper will examine how the created affection has been performed in the World Expo, considering different audiences' reflexive reactions towards the spectacle environmental imagination.

**Ian GOUGH (U Bath, UK):**

**Economic Crisis, Climate Change and the Future of Welfare States**

Abstract: This paper considers the joint implications of the 2007-09 economic crisis and the long-term threat of climate change for the set of institutions and practices labeled 'the welfare state'. To do this it utilizes a broad political economy framework, and is organized in four sections. First, it briefly reviews the implications for futures studies of path dependency theories, which continue to exert a major influence over research into Western welfare states, and the role of 'crises' in switching paths of welfare



state development. Second, it turns to the current crisis of financial capitalism, interpreting this as the result of contradictory trends within financialized capitalism, and analyzes the current fiscal crisis of the state which it has engendered. The third section switches attention to a very different systemic threat—that of climate change—and proceeds to argue that this questions the role of economic growth as the supreme policy target in the West. Since the welfare state has always been premised on the growth state, this too poses profound questions about contemporary social policies and the pursuit of social justice. The conclusion is that the economic crisis makes future economic growth uncertain; climate change makes it undesirable. I suggest that these twin crises will ‘require’ a second stage of de-commodification that goes radically beyond the Polanyian de-commodification embodied in Western welfare states. While some empirical material is presented, the paper is more a series of theses which will require further exploration.

## **04. Power, Politics, Publics: Sociological Experiences**

Tuesday, July 13, 10:45-12:45 at Handels B22 (Vasagatan 1)

Chair: Raquel SOSA (UNAM, Mexico) <rsosa@servidor.unam.mx>

Presenters:

**Raquel SOSA ELÍZAGA (UNAM, Mexico):**

**On Intellectuals, Power and Politics**

Abstract: Nearly sixty years ago, C. Wright Mills wrote an extraordinary book on sociological imagination and sociological commitment in the world. More than fifteen years ago, Pierre Bourdieu renewed this view with his book on the relationship between power and intellectuals. And yet even more recently, both Michael Burawoy and Immanuel Wallerstein have posed questions on the role of intellectuals in contemporary world. Our paper will try to synthesize the main questions posed in this debate, and what is at present called the view of critical social thought in Latin America, to present some theses on what sociologists and other social scientists should take into account when approaching the study of politics, power and publics.

**Michael MARINETTO (Cardiff U, UK):**

**Rip It Up and Start Again: Detoxing Academic Professionalism for a Future Public Sociology**

Abstract: The present generation of academic sociologists is the most highly trained, resourceful, productive and capable in the history of the discipline. The current generation of sociologists is especially prolific in the one currency that matters within modern academia: publications. And yet judging by recent professional discussions (see Michael Burawoy’s 2004 ASA presidential address), there is a concern that the discipline has become detached from the public and from political engagement. There are a number of salient reasons why sociology has been debased as a public project. As Russell Jacoby shows in his book *The Last Intellectuals*, the post-war expansion of the university system dealt a death blow to public intellectuals. Jacoby’s is a pessimistic, though pertinent, critique of modern academe, including academic sociology. As universities expanded, so did the opportunities for academic career progress. And such professional advancement is largely peer-controlled in universities. Hence, academics write not to be generally read but to build academic empires. And the best way of creating such empires—based as they are on the quantity of publications churned out—is to create highly specialized disciplinary fields that rely on jargon-laden prose, which can only be appreciated (or deciphered) by fellow academic peers. The advance of professionalism, which has been coupled by a retreat from the broader public, has certainly marked the post-war development of academic sociology.



The discipline, it seems, is politically and ethically redundant: sociology has come to serve the interests of the profession rather than the public. The argument of this paper is that a public sociology is a political and ethical necessity. It is also a practical possibility, despite the pessimism from the likes of Jacoby, providing the discipline undergoes a course of professional detoxification. The life and career of Georg Simmel stands as prime exemplar of the professionally detoxed sociologist. The paper will explore what Simmel's professional *modus operandi* means for academics today, and whether there are any contemporary examples of 'professionally detoxed' sociology, which may potentially demonstrate how a public sociology may emerge as more prominent in the future.

**Frédéric CLAISSE (U Liège, Belgium) and Pierre DELVENNE (U Liège, Belgium):**

**Building on Anticipation: Dystopia as Empowerment**

Abstract: A dystopia can be defined as the depiction of a dark future building on the systematic amplification of current trends and features. It relates to a complex narrative posture that relies on the critical observation of a threatening present that would lead to an apocalyptic future "if nothing was done." Yet, however inescapable this future may be described, the very existence of such a narrative presupposes that the political community it tries to reach is actually able to do something to thwart it. Oddly enough, a successful dystopia aims at making itself obsolete: once the world it depicts is identified as a possible (or even unavoidable) future, it seems to empower its readers again, restoring what Musil called a 'sense of possibilities' that eventually make alternative pathways thinkable. In our contribution, we propose to broaden the range of commonly accepted dystopists (usually fiction writers and novelists like e.g. George Orwell's 1984) to sociologists like Ulrich Beck. Building on his *Risk Society* (1986), Beck's strong diagnosis about the breakdown of First Modernity and the coming of Second Modernity contains a noticeable prophetic and evangelical overtone that aims at "reinventing politics." We defend the notion that the dystopian posture can be used to characterize both fiction and nonfiction writers such as Orwell and Beck: a common ability, based on the same set of inextricably cognitive and normative patterns, to anticipate the future and eventually empower political communities to engage in further action.

**Paula C. PINTO (York U, Canada), Normand BOUCHER (Laval Université, Canada):**

**Understanding Current Social Practices, Enhancing Social Justice for Persons with Disabilities:**

**A Sociological Perspective on Continuing Struggles**

Abstract: The recent adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities marks an important paradigm shift. From object of charity to subject of rights, people with disabilities have risen as a strong vector revealing the sociopolitical inequalities that historically have characterized their social condition. How can sociology contribute to understand and support disability struggles? In this paper we argue that sociological research of disability rights needs to move away from the traditional grounds of positivist sociology and discern creative, reflexive and critical ways of navigating between the positive and the normative, structure and culture, the global and the local. It has to engage a critical analysis if it aims to contribute to a better understanding of the social consequences of exclusion affecting the exercise of human rights and generate a public debate surrounding the political and collective action in a global setting. Drawing extensively from concrete examples gathered through Disability Rights Promotion International, an international project working to develop a system to monitor the human rights of people with disabilities in the global world, we illustrate challenges and opportunities opened up for sociologists committed to both further social theory and advance social justice in contemporary societies.

**Thokozani XABA (U KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa):**



### **Social Injustice in Fieldwork: Ethical and Political Concerns Regarding the Treatment of Fieldworkers and Respondents in the Conduct of Fieldwork in the Era of Globalization**

Abstract: This paper is interested in the ethical and political issues relating to the relationship between the researcher and the fieldworker. Specifically, it argues that, since the relationship between the researcher and *fieldworker* is not governed by ethical principles nor by labor laws, the fieldworker finds him or herself at the mercy of the researcher. Since fieldworkers mostly rely on intermittent employment, they tend not to be in a position to bargain for the type of work they do and the conditions under which they do it and are, thus, vulnerable to abuse by researchers. The paper further argues that the manner in which fieldworkers are treated is related to the *politics of fieldwork* in development research; i.e. the role of race and privilege in the treatment of *fieldworkers* and respondents as well in the conduct of fieldwork.

Distributed Paper:

**Joana Filipa DIAS VILÃO DA ROCHA DIAS (U Coimbra, Portugal):**

**Regulating Traditional Knowledge:**

**The Importance of Participatory Mechanisms to Promote Public and Collective Rights**

Abstract: Although it is broadly recognized that traditional knowledge (TK) plays a crucial role in noteworthy areas such as food security, development of agriculture and traditional medicine, particularly in the Global South, the Intellectual Property Rights international regulatory regime presents significant limitations to protect the indigenous communities' interests concerning TK and to internalize the specificities of a heterogeneous world with multiple cultural traditions. Through an accurate analysis of the national and international legislations and interviews with relevant actors involved in the negotiation of regulatory frameworks (representatives from Government, Civil Society Organizations and Academia), this paper intends to analyze the role and interfaces of national and international governance institutions and to reflect on possible TK participative regulation spheres which respect the diversity and which do not impose a "one size fits all" solution. The Brazilian case study aims to illustrate efforts to preserve the biodiversity and knowledge associated to traditional agro-ecosystems, and the inherent challenges, in which concerns governance and regulation, having in mind the crucial relevance of grassroots interventions and participatory mechanisms to achieve a sustainable development in the Global South.

## **05. Conceptualizing Future in Social Theory**

Joint Session of RC07 Futures Research and RC16 Sociological Theory

**Tuesday, July 13, 15:30-17:30 at Handels Malmsten (Vasagatan 1)**

**Chairs:** Elisa P. REIS (UF Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) <epreis@alternex.com.br>

Markus S. SCHULZ (UIUC, USA) <isarc07@gmail.com>

**Presenters:**

**Hanns-Georg BROSE (U Duisburg-Essen, Germany):**

**Backwards Into the Future?**

Abstract: Starting from the assumption, that the structure of social time in contemporary societies can best be described as the simultaneity of non-simultaneities, it will be argued, that there appear many contemporaneous temporalities on the screens of the world-society. Hence there are many present pasts and possible future presents that might to be synchronized. The imagination of the future as a

“storehouse of possibilities” (Luhmann) amongst which we deliberately choose goals to be progressively reached, has lost ground. The future appears not any more as *future possibilities* but as a complex variety of *possible futures* and as a strain to make risky choices among them. To make decisions, social systems refer to their memory while developing their expectations. We move “backwards into the future.” This becomes more evident in some contemporary concepts of dealing with (the) future(s). While “innovation” and “newness” were for a long time uncontested general promises of future possibilities, concepts like “sustainability” and “renew-ability,” that claim to save past possibilities, gain attention and significance.

**Natàlia CANTÓ-MILÀ (UOC, Spain), Swen SEEBACH (Open U Catalonia, UOC, Spain):**

**The Future as an Object of Sociological Analysis**

Abstract: The future has often played an important role in sociology. Yet, traditionally it was its prediction, control or modelling that which constituted the objective of sociological research. Thus the future was the objective but not the object of sociological analyzes and theories. Sociological research and sociological theory worked in order to be able to predict that which would happen (the Comtian “savoir pour prévoir” is a paradigmatic example of this way of dealing with the future in sociology). This paper presents a different way of dealing with the future as a category of sociological analysis, thus making of ideas, pictures, images and figures of the future an object of analysis. The thesis presented here asserts that social relations as we know them would not be possible without ideas and images of the future in the imaginaries of each participant in society. And that the form and colours of these pictures arise and change within their specific socio-historical contexts. Future imaginaries are shaped by and within the structures that web society together, and, at the same time, are webbed by the reciprocal actions and effects (*Wechselwirkung*) that, in fact, *are* society. The aim of the paper is therefore to investigate the images and narratives that are being elaborated and webbed on the future in contemporary Europe today. In order to accomplish this objective 60 individual life-stories have been collected in Germany (mainly Saxony and Westphalia) and Spain (Catalonia). Through the analysis of these life stories we are able, on the one hand, to prove whether and how the future holds the central role in the very possibility of society as we know it, and in each individual’s sociability. On the other hand, we are able to trace the main contours and typologies of future imaginaries that are being mobilised in autobiographical narratives in today’s social webs.

**Joshua LOWE (U Warwick, UK):**

**The Idea of Progress: A Defense**

Abstract: The mode of future-orientation contained in the modern concept of progress has come under attack. Echoing the earlier work of Karl Löwith and Eric Voegelin, but now in the face of the dangers posed by climate change, John Gray has argued that belief in progress is merely a modern chapter in the history of theology, and is not appropriate for the reality in which we live. I will examine the claim that the idea of progress is secularized theology, and the implications it has for the status of modern historical consciousness. I will argue that in its totalistic form the claim lacks plausibility, and that its significance for the present is greatly reduced by its genetic form, since it has little to say about a non-teleological and non-utopian concept of progress. The question of the appropriate temporal orientation for the historical and social sciences cannot be decided on the basis of a supposed derivation from Christian theology. Rather, I will suggest that the nature of our historical situation, and our capacity to recognize and address this situation, requires a progressive future-orientation.

**Lars Geer HAMMERSHØJ (Aarhus U, Denmark):**

**Diagnosis of the Times vs. Description of Society**



Abstract: Today, researchers from the social sciences and humanities are normally able, if asked, to provide diagnosis of the times based on their existing research. However, they seldom reflect methodologically upon this kind of analysis strategy, just as there is a striking absence of methodological reflection upon diagnosis of the times in general (Reese-Schäfer). The hypothesis of the paper is that diagnosis of the times and description of society are two diametrically opposed kinds of analysis strategies: To diagnose the times is not about describing the existing society, but about diagnosing transformations which are underway or made possible (L.-H. Schmidt). The object of this diagnosis is thus indications in the times (tendencies) of transformations of the field of possibility for the times (conditions); whereas the object of description of society in the social sciences is the actual social institutions and structures and the actual social actors. The paper argues that the problem is that today diagnosis of the times is often confused with projected descriptions of society (e.g. U. Beck), or researchers attempts to substantiate their diagnosis with descriptions (e.g. R. Florida).

**Reimon BACHIKA (Bukkyo U, Kyoto, Japan):**

**Values and Agency in the Sociology of Culture**

Abstract: Is determinism in the social sciences dead? Perhaps, if not dead, it is 'just fading away' as one strand of sociological thought, to be succeeded by an orientation centering on social actors. This paper intends to give a push in that direction. Based on Anthony Giddens' theory of societal structuration that links agency and structure, the paper discusses the possibility of conceptualizing values as 'resources,' enabling the adoption of the notion of agency in the sociology of culture. According to Giddens, 'structural properties,' i.e. the rules and resources of social practices are at the same time medium and outcome of those practices ('the duality of structure') and therefore constitute the basic mechanism of the structuration of societies and their reproduction. By connecting values with agency, the paper argues that values, commonly analyzed as components of culture, turn into a dynamic concept seen as resources—a notion related to power ('vehicles of power'), or, to use a current if weaker term, related to social capital that individuals and collectivities rely on in their social practices. The main argumentations concern the following: (1) the status quo of value studies; (2) the irreducible properties of the value spectrum; and (3) values in the context of the rules and resources of social practices.

Distributed Papers:

**Roland ROBERTSON (U Aberdeen, UK):**

**Theorizing the 'End Time': Where is Globalization Going?**

Abstract: This paper proposes that the consideration of globalization cannot be limited to our planet. Various contemporary phenomena have appeared that necessitate a revision of globalization theory, in particular, and social theory, in general. Among these are the present global economic downturn, extensive climatic change, fuel depletion, the threat of global pandemics, and rapid migration and diasporic formations. The contention is that the study of globalization is rapidly becoming the central ingredient of all of sociological theory, as well—perhaps—of sociology itself. Moreover, this disciplinary change is also leading to a recasting of the discipline of sociology and other disciplines in the academy. The general conclusion is that, in looking ahead, we can see that all disciplines are, however reluctantly, pointing in the direction of cosmic, cosmological, astronomical and post-religious deliberations. Major attention will be paid to the way in which "earthly" studies are being extensively relativized, as is well exemplified by such contemporary themes as increasing space exploration and tourism as well as the possible/probable human habitation of other planets.

**Jenny ANDERSSON (Institutet för Framtidsstudier, Sweden), Erik WESTHOLM (Institutet för Framtidsstudier, Sweden):**





### **Futures Studies for a New Era: Knowledge Production between Politics and Social Science**

**Abstract:** Futures studies —the study of the future—have an epistemological canon dating back at least to the 1950s, with a body of thought elaborated by philosophers such as Bertrand de Jouvenel, Johan Galtung, Fred Polak, Eleonora Massini or Alva Myrdal. While its place in science has always been questioned, we find in this canon a set of key epistemological principles: That the future is never simply studied but also created through all intellectual interactions with it, hence, the future is never something that exists but always something that is becoming, and that our images of the future thus have a productive function in society. That, since the future defies scientific postulates of objectivity and fact, no one can claim to possess specific knowledge on the future. Therefore, all future knowledge is inherently normative and based on more or less explicit preconditions. That scientific knowledge production has nevertheless a crucial role for a democratic society. The role of futures studies is to create an intermediary position between critical social science and policy making. Following the fundamental nature of these epistemological postulates, futures studies have always existed in a field of tension between science, democratic participation and policymaking, on the margins of academia and sometimes also struggling to make its voice heard in the realm of politics. Further, knowledge production has gradually become a more diversified field and future knowledge claiming objectivity and expertise is today produced from a multiple of other positions than the scientific. Also, within the social sciences, uncertainty has become a mainstream approach sometimes contributing to the picture that the knowledge basis is too weak for democratic choice. We suggest that it is imperative, today, to rethink and reclaim the critical legacy of futures studies in order to construct a platform where future knowledge can prove its potential to strengthen public debate and citizen participation by pointing at the key issues of choice that lie ahead.

## **06. Social Movements and the Future - Part A: Organization and Imagination**

Joint Session of RC07 Futures Research and RC48 Social Movements, Collective Action and Social Change  
**Tuesday, July 13, 17:45-19:45 at Handels B22 (Vasagatan 1)**

**Chairs:** Markus S. SCHULZ (UIUC, USA) <isarc07@gmail.com>  
Benjamin TEJERINA MONTAÑA (U País Vasco, Spain) <cjptemob@lg.ehu.es>

**Presenters:**

**Vibha ARORA (IIT, India):**

### **Resistance and Activism in Place and Cyberspace**

**Abstract:** Low-cost connectivity and public access to technologies such as web-logs have effectively carved interactive and alternate public spheres of oppositional and cultural politics. This paper is exclusively concerned with highlighting the use of ICTs as a political tool and the weblog as a site of documenting and propagating place-based resistance to hydropower projects in Sikkim in North-east India. The activists are in Meluccian terms nomads of the present. My analysis emphasizes that small-scale resource-poor movements do acquire a global belonging and reap benefits of Internet networking and activism. Weepingsikkim.blogspot.com functions as a virtual diary chronicling oppositional arguments and protest events staged in multi-sited space (Gangtok, Dzongu, Delhi, Kalimpong, etc) while enabling the activists to inter-network with other social movements and instantaneously. In a scenario where a majority of people in Sikkim neither use nor have access to Internet, cyberactivism can merely provide an alternative space to voice protest and garner national and global support.



**Yin-Zu CHEN (National Taipei U, Taiwan):  
Internet Strategies of Social Movements in Mexico City**

Abstract: This paper aims to study the use of the new information technology by the social movement organizations in Mexico city. Former studies about social movement and Internet are focusing mostly on the long-distance organizing of collective actions, such as inter/trans-national movement and on the applying of the digital information technology by the social movements in the industrial countries. The analysis of the websites of the groups and organizations that struggle for the sexual and reproductive rights in Mexico city has the goal to analyze the relation between social movement's strategies and the new information technology in a developing country and to find out the how the socio-political context shapes the performance and strategy of social movement organizations (SMOs) based on the digital communication. The results show the degree of Internet penetration, the traditional media structure and the technical limitation in interaction with the organizational characteristics influencing the online strategy of Mexican SMOs.

**Gabriele DE ANGELIS (U Nova, Lisbon, Portugal):**

**A Glance into a Future Political Life: Imagining Post-Neoliberal Communities at the World Social Forum**

Abstract: Meant as an open space in which all organizations sharing a relatively succinct list of principles are allowed to participate, the WSF and its organizers have produced in a year-long practice of identity building several symbolic features that aim to forge a worldwide "movement of movements" in which actors from different continents and with a different political and cultural background are made able to participate. In order to bind such different organizations and movements into a web of communication out of which alternatives to neoliberal policies and politics should emerge, the organizers of the WSF have worked out a political language one of the key elements of which is the image of a future world beyond neoliberalism. This paper aims to show what these visions of the future are, how they have been created, and how the WSF's symbolic and organizational space has been shaped in conformity with this anticipation of a "future possible world." To do so, the paper analyzes a choice of the documents produced at the Forum and disseminated through its website as well as the visual dimension of the venue at which the Forum takes place. By means of frame and content analysis the paper will show how recurring frames concerning future communities and modes of interaction beyond neoliberalism contribute to molding a transnational political identity as well as the Forum's organizational model.

**Nicole DOERR (FU Berlin, Germany):**

**Translate Democracy: Activists Transforming the Cultural Institutions of the Public Sphere**

Abstract: In recent years new global social movements have developed on the issue of social justice within the loose platform of the World Social Forum and the European Social Forum (ESF). Activists who created the world-wide European Social Forum process have launched joint campaigns to address European policy-makers and institutions. Because of their joint coordination in regular transnational preparatory meetings, online and offline communication, they have mobilized thousands of participants across borders to attend the large-scale European Social Forums. One of the major challenges for transnational communication and discursive democracy within these meetings are linguistic in nature; a part of the activists and organizers involved in the ESF preparatory process therefore hold their transnational meetings using multi-lingual formats of translation. This provides a good case study to test whether transnational discursive arenas work effectively in comparison with national discourse arenas in social movements. In order to link the theoretical grounding of discourse and deliberative democracy to the subject of the emerging transnational public sphere, I have studied the extent to which *democratic discussion in the sense of deliberative debate* might or might not take place within the *multilingual* and transnational preparatory meetings in the European Social Forum process. My study is based on three years of ethnographic field work, interviews, survey, and discourse analysis. The findings



of my comparison between European meetings and those taking place at the national level in Germany, Italy and the UK is surprising. I found that multilingualism does not reduce the inclusivity and equality of democratic deliberation as compared to monolingual settings in the national context. Traditionally-marginalized groups such as socially disadvantaged people, women and immigrants, felt better included in a social forum meeting working with translation compared to one that worked with a single (national language). The puzzle to understand this is that transnational multilingual meetings work using a novel organizational practice of translation implemented by new groups of principled actors. Because of the difficulties of working together multilingually, these activist-translators worked at institutionalizing norms of attentive listening that have the potential to democratize deliberative processes. I argue that translation as a novel institution of democratic deliberation created through transnational arenas of activism has a potential to transform the habits of hearing and conception of a democratic public sphere as monolingual, culturally and nationally homogeneous.

**Kathleen BLEE (U Pittsburgh, USA):**

**How Social Movement Groups Imagine the Future**

Abstract: This paper brings together theories of culture, time, and path dependency to study a unique social movement data set based on a longitudinal and comparative study of over 60 new and emerging grassroots social movement groups in Pittsburgh, USA from 2003-07. I use “social movement groups” (SMGs) to denote fledgling grassroots efforts towards social change that are not as institutionalized or clearly focused as “social movement organizations” (SMOs). SMGs provide a lens into the ways that groups assemble visions and ideas that will later taken for granted and therefore often less visible. SMGs ranged in their political views, from conservative to progressive, and in issue focuses, which included animal rights, anti-war, anti-drug, environmental, and pro-gun groups among others. All were closely observed in meetings, public events, and many private arenas (n= 600+ systematic observations). Over 70 activists and those approached to join these groups were interviewed, some on several occasions. In this paper, I used comparison of group talk and actions, over time and across groups, to analyze (1) how SMGs collectively assemble a vision of the future; (2) what elements of this imagined future are incorporated in subsequent action and which are not; (3) how elements of an imagined future become lost, silenced, or suppressed over time when a group’s sense of possibilities contracts; and (4) how a group’s sense of imagined possibilities expands at turning points in a group’s trajectory.

**John FORAN (UC Santa Barbara, USA):**

**Global Justice: How Radical Social Change Is Being Made After Globalization**

Abstract: This paper examines ongoing global justice movements in the current context of a multi-faceted global crisis: global warming, peak oil, militarism, new forms of imperialism, economic crisis and deepening world poverty. The cases include the global justice movement, the “Pink Tide” of left governments in Latin America, the Zapatista rebellion in Mexico, and the radical reforms of the past half century in Kerala, India. The paper compares and contrasts these radical social movements, with particular focus on their “new political cultures of opposition” (Foran, 2009). While one set has “taken power” through elections—Hugo Chávez and others in Latin America, and activists/politicians in Kerala, the other is forging a direct action/participatory democracy model—what John Holloway calls the path of “not taking power” —the Zapatistas in Chiapas, and the vast global justice movement that networks at the World Social Forum. Looking at their diverse, radical political cultures we can address such issues as: What are the strengths and limitations of an electoral path to radical social change versus more horizontally organized attempts to change the world? What are their lessons (positive and negative), and what do they offer radicals and revolutionaries of the present and future? Finally, what potential exists for these movements to work together in various ways as parts of a larger, emergent global justice project, suggesting new paths to radical social transformation in the future?



## **07. Social Movements and the Future - Part B: Mobilization and Institutions**

Joint Session of RC07 Futures Research and RC48 Social Movements, Collective Action and Social Change  
Thursday, July 15, 20:00-22:00 at Handels Aula (Vasagatan 1)

**Chair:** Raquel SOSA (UNAM, Mexico) <rsosa@servidor.unam.mx>

**Presenters:**

**Ilja A. LUCIAK (Virginia Tech, USA):**

**Implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in Nicaragua and El Salvador:**

**The Women's Movement in Action**

**Abstract:** It is the premise of this paper that sustainable peace and development require the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The paper examines the implementation challenges in the case of El Salvador and Nicaragua, focusing of the role the women's movements in the two countries play in advancing the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. The paper identifies the key gender dimensions of war and peace-making in the areas addressed by SCR 1325. It seeks to illustrate the need for and the benefits of implementing SCR 1325. Following a background discussion of Resolution 1325, the paper examines the key areas of war and peace-making that are relevant to the resolution. In accordance with the emerging implementation paradigm, the thematic areas are grouped under three key dimensions —prevention, participation, and protection. The paper addresses two key challenges in implementing SCR 1325: how to strengthen women's participation in decision-making and security sector reform. It demonstrates the role social movements can play in implementing developing global norms in a national context. The paper is based on the author's consultant report for the UN Office of the Special Advisor on Gender and Women's Advancement and field research in Nicaragua and El Salvador during Summer 2009.

**Jocelyn S. VITERNA (Harvard U, USA):**

**Neither Civil Society nor State:**

**Re-conceptualizing the 'NGO Regime' and its Consequences for the Global South**

**Abstract:** Currently, sociological literature celebrates the "globalization" of civil society, whereby the power of the international advocacy community is theorized to buttress the demands of local social movements to improve their bargaining power with recalcitrant states in the global south. This literature overwhelmingly theorizes and operationalizes "civil society" as "social change NGOs" or "social movement NGOs." In this paper, I argue that this "new" civil society does not, in fact, act like civil society, but rather it acts like a state; NGOs are much more likely to be the target of claims than the vehicle carrying claims to the state. As the target of claims, social change NGOs are becoming the new powerholders in developing nations, and are fundamentally transforming the relationship between the state and its citizens. The emergence of this new NGO Regime has important implications for our understanding of how citizens seek social change, and suggests that our existing understandings of mobilization tactics, collective identities, and political opportunities no longer fit in today's reality. Data from field research in Central America, as well as numbers documenting the trends in NGO funding and project priorities, substantiate the theoretical argument.

**Helana C. A. FREITAS (U Brasília , Brazil), Mônica C. MOLINA (U of Brasília , Brazil):**

**Contributions of the Landless Workers Movement (MST) to Build New Proposals for Rural Education in Brazilian Universities**



**Abstract:** This article will analyze some of the contributions of the Landless Workers Movement (MST) for the construction of educative proposals at universities to the rural areas. From the 80's, with the process of Brazilian democratization, the MST was assumed the protagonism of the struggle for the agrarian reform, involving thousand of agriculturists of all the regions of the Country. However soon found that one of the serious obstacles to advance the organizational process was the low education level of the farmers. From this observation, the MST began to develop educational practices that generate reflection about the real conditions in rural areas, in line with the perspective of the proposed change. The MST searched partnerships in Brazilian public universities to expand the provision of schooling for farmers involved in agrarian reform. These partnerships, despite the conflicts generated with various academic sectors, are bringing innovations to the universities, especially as regards the integration of the universities in other knowledge not valued by traditional science and organization of the formative process. The academia has being to fit entry of a social group that never had access to the Brazilian public universities. For this analysis we will use the work of the sociologist Boaventura de Sousa Santos that examines the role of social movements in counter-hegemonic globalization and the university in the twenty-first century.

**Anju AGGARWAL (U Delhi, India):  
Women's Movement in India**

**Abstract:** Social movements of the 19th century India were largely led by the men of upper class strata. It was in 1920's that women started taking initiatives This paper examines how gender as an issue formed the basis of India's women's movement and remained a core issue in India's socio-political-cultural sphere. It argues that under the impact of British rule position of Indian women underwent a decisive transformation leading to feminist assertion of power in the 20th century. This paper reviews the extent to which women's participation in the national movement accentuated the spirit of liberalism and egalitarianism. It reveals that in the post-independent period women came forward for creative self expression, a search for new identities. The paper notes that while in 50's and 60's Indian women's movement remained stagnant, 70's was a period of reawakening. With the advent of 80's it adopted more holistic approach by forming autonomous organizations, alliances and coalitions shedding its focus on social justice. It moved ahead in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by demanding the right to self determination and equality with men. It has ushered in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a remarkable achievement of passing of Domestic violence Act. The paper concludes that complex, rich and vibrant, contemporary women's movement in India, though was not cohesive yet is a strong and plural force which took to legislation instead of agitation to bring social change. It is still in transitional phase. It has to fight against broader issues like communalism, distributive justice, etc. To be meaningful it has to co relate with diversity and other socio-political movements in India.

**Ajay GUDAVARTHY (Centre for Political Studies, India):  
Democracy and Development: Radical Social Movements in Southern India**

**Abstract:** This paper is an attempt to delineate the political processes initiated by the human rights, women's, and the regional movements in Andhra Pradesh (southern India) and the state responses to them over the last two decades. It argues that grassroots movements have made repeated attempts of bringing in developmental issues onto the center stage through various creative inter-linkages. This has over the last two decades led to novel political debates on 'politics of development' and issues of governance, post-economic reforms. This paper limits itself to tracing three such axes around which changing state regimes and social movements in Andhra Pradesh have posited mutually exclusive dichotomies in understanding the means and possible ends of development and governance. How these emerging dichotomies are settled through policy response would to a large extent determine the larger social outcome of the developmental process and its implication for the vulnerable social groups.



For this we need to trace the historical trajectories of each of these movements, which broadly form the context around which state has responded and formulated its own policies.

**Yifat GUTMAN (New School for Social Research, USA), Adam BROWN (Cornell U, USA), Amy SODARO (New School for Social Research, USA):**

**Memory Studies from Past to Future: What Does a Change of Focus Entail?**

**Abstract:** For social scientists who study memory, there is a nagging concern that memory studies is inherently backward-looking, and that memory itself –how it is deployed, invoked, and utilized– can hinder efforts to move forward. It is the purpose of this paper to challenge this assumption by looking at the ways in which the study and practice of memory are ultimately about the present and future. This Janus-faced view of memory as looking to the past in order to shape the present and future is the basis for the increasingly relevant concerns and scholarship about the relationship of memory to democratic politics, human rights and transitional justice, and conflict resolution. This paper argues that in order to develop a full understanding of how individuals and societies remember, memory scholars must consider the influence of the future –as it is imagined and desired– on how the past is remembered, mobilized, and dealt with. This change of focus from past to future raises critical questions about the field of memory studies as a whole, on how temporality shapes our current conceptions and assumptions, and about particular issues regarding collective and individual memory. The paper discusses these questions and makes suggestions for developing a focus on the future in memory studies.

## **08. Social Movements and the Future - Part C: Protest and Outcomes**

Joint Session of RC07 Futures Research and RC48 Social Movements, Collective Action and Social Change  
**Friday, July 16, 10:45-12:45 at Handels B22 (Vasagatan 1)**

**Chairs:** Vibha ARORA (IIT, India) <vibhaaurora@yahoo.com> and Ilja A. LUCIAK (Virginia Tech, USA)  
iluciak@vt.edu

**Presenters:**

**Ian MCGREGOR (UT Sydney, Australia):**

**Policy Coalitions in the Global Greenhouse:**

**Contestation and Collaboration in Global Climate Change Public Policy**

**Abstract:** It is more than 20 years since 1985, when world climate and atmospheric scientists first issued an authoritative warning of the danger of global warming. In 1988, scientists, environmentalists and politicians from 48 countries endorsed the Toronto Declaration to address global warming that called for a 20% worldwide reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by the year 2005 leading to an eventual 50% reduction. Contestation and collaboration in the global climate change public policy process, involving a wide range of actors, has continued since then. Two organizations were founded in 1989 by non-state actors on opposite sides of the climate policy debate. These were the Global Climate Coalition (GCC), which was established by a range of US business interests, and Climate Action Network (CAN) established by a range of environmental and scientific non-governmental organizations. The thesis documents, analyzes and compares how each organization was formed, organized and developed. It reviews how GCC and CAN enabled more effective national and transnational advocacy and how they fostered opposing policy coalitions on climate policy. The respective approaches are assessed, evaluated and contrasted as each

sought to gain support for their opposing policy positions in the global climate change policy process. The research uses a neo-Gramscian theoretical perspective and develops and applies an analytical framework focused on policy coalitions of state and non-state actors to investigate the role that non-state actors played in the global climate policy process. GCC and CAN played major roles within opposing policy coalitions that became centrally important in shaping the outcome of the global and national climate policy processes. The thesis focuses on the role of GCC and CAN and their associated policy coalitions in influencing the framing, developing, implementation and review of global climate policy. It examines the global climate change policy process through this analytical lens of contestation between policy coalitions from the creation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in 1988 to the first Meeting of the Parties of the ratified Kyoto Protocol in 2005. The research assesses the analytical framework and concludes by identifying critical issues that the current global public policy processes have encountered in developing and implementing effective global climate change public policy.

**Arno SIMONS (TU Berlin, Germany), Zoë ROBAEY (TU Berlin, Germany):**

**Strategizing Task Overlay for Successful Claims Making:**

**The Pembina Institute and the Canadian Oil Sands**

Abstract: Environmental movement organizations (EMOs) are central actors in the construction of environmental problems. They frequently participate in what Hannigan calls the three 'key tasks' of environmental claims-making: 1) *assembling* environmental problems on a scientific basis, 2) *presenting* problem claims through the media, and 3) *contesting* claims politically. As there is often a division of labor between different actors for those tasks, strategic advantages as well as potential conflicts emerging from *task overlay* have been widely neglected by scholars so far. The paper shows on basis of a case study of the Canadian Pembina Institute that single actors, in this case an EMO, can be simultaneously involved in all three key tasks. Due to task overlay, Pembina faces trade-offs between scientific accuracy and media accessibility as well as between media attention and political standing. Nevertheless, Pembina's claims-making success ultimately results from strategizing task overlays. Scientific expertise is the institute's most valuable resource. Emerging from the assembling task, Pembina instrumentalizes this resource in many ways for gaining leverage in the presenting and contesting tasks. The empirical case points to the limits of Hannigan's and similar models suggesting a differentiation of tasks or functions. To overcome those limits conditions for, strategic advantages and implications of task overlay are theorized and discussed in this paper. A key assumption is that "bridging-EMOs," such as Pembina, in operating task overlay and linking science to politics play important epistemic as well as political roles in the knowledge society.

**Julie AUBRIOT (LATTS, France):**

**The Mazibuko Court Case or the Invention of New South African Social Movements Tactics**

Abstract: A long tradition of social mobilization exists in South Africa. Under apartheid, social movements, supported by the black populations, came outside of the field of institutional politics and developed away from this sphere via associations and trade union structures or through "civics." The introduction of democracy in 1994 removed the purpose of a range of social movements and caused a certain degree of demobilization in this area. As a consequence, since the end of the 1990s, the re-composition of social movements created by apartheid and the development of new social movements is now being seen (Ballard *et al*, 2006). This presentation, based on a case study, gives an analysis of the Mazibuko court case. This trial, which ran from July 2006 until the end of 2009, was launched by two new social movements: the Anti Privatisation Forum and the Coalition against Water Privatisation, which were demanding the revision of water access policy in the Johannesburg township of Soweto. We shall analyze why these new social movements have had to invent new practices, such as recourse to law and, more generally, to the courts in order to defend their cause. We shall also examine the manner in



which this new tactic has been combined with more traditional methods of direct action. Finally, we shall study the networks linking the individuals involved in this case and see how social movements, cause lawyers and militant experts come together in defence of a common cause, while retaining their own interests and agendas. Finally, this presentation seeks to analyze the capacity for invention of these new South African social movements in order to attain victory for their vision of a more fair and equitable society.

**Belinda ROBNETT (UC Irvine, USA):**

**Societal Cultural Shifts and Post Social Movement Organization Processes**

Abstract: What happens when a social movement gains significant concessions and its organizations remain active? How do post movement organizations redefine the group agenda, maintain a collective identity, and shift strategies? Previous studies focus on culture as internal to the movement, and on the role of the state in shaping post movement processes but do not take into account broader societal cultural shifts (Meyer 1989; Taylor 1989; Whittier 1997). Consequently, we do not have an understanding of the interplay of movement organization dynamics, state concessions, and societal cultural shifts in the decades that follow the peak of activism and significant political gain. Through an examination of archival materials and newspaper articles, this paper assesses the political activities of the US black civil rights organizations including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference from 1970-2008, and shows that while the state and organizational dynamics play significant roles in post movement processes and outcomes, societal cultural shifts are equally important. The decline of blatant racism, the rise of a “new racism,” and a shifting US racial hierarchy has served to reshape the contours of the African-American movement including its political goals, collective identity, and strategies. The result is unequal outcomes for and segmented incorporation of black constituents into the US mainstream.

**Miguel MARTÍNEZ (U Complutense Madrid, Spain), Elísabeth LORENZI (UNE a Distancia, Spain), César GABRIEL (U Complutense, Spain):**

**Squatting in Madrid: Opportunity Structures and Processes of Institutionalization in Three Social Centers**

Abstract: The Squatters' Movement in European and Spanish cities has evolved in different ways during more than two decades. Either as residential struggles, either as the promotion of counter-cultural venues, it is still difficult to find common patterns between cities and experiences where this urban movement spread. Thus, in this research we adopt a comparative methodology of three squatted Social Centers (which hosted permanent residents as well) in order to evaluate their origins, features and evolution. Our aim is to search out both the political, social and spatial conditions that allowed these SC to develop, and all the factors that were involved in their interactions with municipal authorities. These three SC were located in central areas of the Madrid and achieved a great social recognition. However, their attitudes towards authorities and their role among the local squatting scene differed significantly. Theoretically, we stand for a broad definition of the processes of institutionalization. Empirically, we focus on the operations made by squatters and local government in order to turn into a legal or stable status the SC. Persistence of the squatters' collectives and projects, and their capacities to mobilize social affinities, can be also regarded as autonomous forms of institutionalization. As a consequence of our analysis, we argue that social alliances of squatters with local neighbors and mass media were positive to increase the stability of the SC, while urban centrality was crucial just for keeping active the nodal links within the urban-alternative movements.

**Khosro MALEKI (U Metz, France):**

**From Feeling of Discontent to Social Movement**



Abstract: The social discontent can be considered as a key element of the theories of the conflict and the social order. The passage of the *feeling* of discontent in the collective *mobilization* is a processing which occurs in relation with the structural modes to resolve the conflicts. This transformation is going to put in mutual relation the collective expectations and the available means, to require a change to correct the unjust situations. The objective of this article is to present a theoretical model capable to explain how the social discontent could put in relationship the inequitable received structural situations with the expectations of amelioration in future demanded by the affected social actors. The formation of the social discontent is going to be produced in four sequences namely: a) the existence of a social cause perceived by the social actors affected as menacing, b) the designation of the responsables of this menacing cause, c) the demand of the compensations in the original menace and finally d) the orientation towards a plan vertical of collective mobilization. The escalation of the social discontent directed towards the social movement varies according to the interconnections which could be establishes with the sources of power that produces a vast field of conversation and argumentation between the various social actors.

## 09. Nations, Politics, and Social Imagination

Tuesday, July 13, 20:00-22:00 at Handels B22 (Vasagatan 1)

Chair: Timothy W. LUKE (Virginia Tech, USA) <twluke2@vt.edu>

### Presenters:

**Andrea BORGHINI (U Pisa, Italy):**

#### **The Power of Symbolic Power and Everyday Life**

Abstract: In our global era the crisis of the nation state opens up new vision about power and its dynamics. It doesn't mean the state's end, but the *chance* to give a different vision of it. Particularly, the focus of our paper stresses on, from one side, Symbolic Power, as a power own of the state, *the power of constituting the given through utterances, of making people see and believe* (Bourdieu); and, from the other side, on *Social Imagination*, at the same time, as the object and the source of the Symbolic Power.

The, sometime problematical, intertwining of them gives rise to several implications: the nation state's epistemological dimension and its influence of the way thinking *Society*; the role of the *Governance*, as a political instrument that shows the relationships between State and Society, Symbolic Power and Social Imagination; and a new vision about crisis and transformations of the nation State. Through Symbolic Power, it continues to assert itself and control over *everyday life*. The conclusion is that sociologists has to concentrate their efforts at this level of analysis, in order to understand the complex political dynamics of our time and in what way the political comes back to society.

**Max STEPHENSON (Virginia Tech Institute, USA), Laura ZANOTTI (Virginia Tech, USA):**

#### **Envisioning Peace and Social Justice:**

#### **Exploring the Political Imaginaries of Community-based Philanthropies in Haiti and the Balkans**

Abstract: Government officials and international institution leaders have increasingly recognized the role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as important in peacekeeping and peace-building processes. Heightened interest in human security and by international organizations in intervening to protect populations from an array of dangers that range from poverty to gross violations of human rights have opened new spaces for political action for NGOs. However, the growing role of NGOs in national and international governance is controversial. Some analysts have suggested these trends are



creating a progressive alternative to state-based politics (Kaldor, 2003). Meanwhile, other scholars (Duffield, 2007; Duffield and Waddel, 2006) have argued that NGOs represent a liberal form of biopolitical empire. Researchers who remain attached to the state as the only possibility for political organization (Chandler, 2009) have also critiqued NGOs. This paper problematizes dismissals of NGOs as carriers of imperial agendas as well as romanticized appraisals of their work. We explore the ways community-based philanthropies in the Balkans and in Haiti have framed their political imaginary and negotiated relationships with multiple local, national and international interlocutors and constituencies to examine how these entities appropriate political spaces for action and how they invent (with varying degrees of success) strategies to secure social change.

**Michael S. DRAKE (U Hull, UK):**

**Beyond 'Zombie Categories' to the Future of Political Sociology**

Abstract: This paper mobilizes Ulrich Beck's critique of 'zombie categories' to argue that political sociology suffers particularly from this necrophiliac condition through its total investments in what are today the empty shells of class, nation and party. However, just as classical political sociology developed out of a critique of the shortfalls of political theory and science in the analysis of modern politics, so critical sociological reflection on contemporary radical political theory offers a way to construct a political sociology for a world in which the parameters and the subject of the political have become transient and mobile. New formulations and new categories are required to think this uncoupled political condition positively in terms of possibilities of social life, and can help us to understand the re-animation of Beck's zombie categories as imaginary but real social forces.

**Yifat GUTMAN (New School for Social Research, USA):**

**Past before Future: 'Memory Activists' in Israel**

Abstract: Since the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, collective memory and historiography have composed a cultural arena for the constitution of its conflict with the Palestinians as rooted in ancient and recent historical circumstances that legitimize contemporary political claims. This arena has become central in the 2000s, as hopes for a peaceful future weakened and official efforts to end the conflict have been stalled. This paper examines three groups of peace activists in Israel whose emergence starting in 2000 testifies to the loss of meaning and hope of more traditional peace activism and co-existence models. These groups turn to the past as a central means of bringing political change in the future. By producing and spreading knowledge about the traumatic Palestinian experience of 1948, the groups hope to bring recognition to their continuous suffering which would be followed by taking responsibility and compensation in the future. Although a severe struggle on the representation of the origin of the conflict limits the possibility of such linear change, in the absence of any other successful language for political intervention today, the future-oriented change in the understanding of the past and the promise of reconciliation which the groups bring has an interesting potential.

**Fernando LOPEZ-ALVES (UC Santa Barbara, USA):**

**Futures, Nations, and National Identity**

Abstract: Most literature on nationalism and the nation has pointed to the importance of the past in the construction of the nation and national identity. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Renan surveyed his world in order to make a list of factors that could explain what constituted a nation and the surge of nationalism. That list, to this day, remains a major starting point to theories of the nation and nationalism. In it, past collective experiences, shared traditions, shared ethnicities (which also speak of a common collective past) and a shared language and religion provided a possible explanation for national identity. Renan manifested his uncertainty as to whether any of these factors or all combined could, in fact, provide a satisfying explanation. He was certain, however, that the past of a give community supplied the major



building rock of nation building. His argument has remained for the most part unchallenged. During the last 30 years Eric Hobsbawm, a major source on the subject, has forcefully argued that the traditions upon which elites build nationalism and create the idea of “a nation” can be invented. So, we have heroes, flags, symbols, genocides, atrocities and deeds that are not completely real but that once they are invented and absorbed in the public imaginary became foundational myths of the nation. Thus, the past can be invented. Still, in this theory, to explain the nation and the emotional ties that create identity one needs to look into the past, either fictional or real. Literature has identified cases that add another dimension to nation building: manifest destiny: A case is, for instance, the US, and many have argued that the country adds a sense of religious mission to nation building and identity. This paper questions these theories of the nation and national identity. It argues that current theories are not comprehensive enough and that therefore they miss a very important dimension. Based on research on Latin America and Europe, it claims that states and the public imaginary construct the nation and national identity by creating a sense of belonging to an open collective future. This is very different from manifest destiny or religious missionary zeal. Latin America, for instance, offers a modern and different way of constructing the nation and national identity where ideas about an unsettled but promising future colored the imagining of the nation and created identity. Nations are not only imagined on the basis of Anderson’s “ingredients” of nation building: they are also conceptualized in terms of its future prospects. Images of the future provided the major building blocs; a future that remained in part unknown but that became a dimension of the desired nation. At the end images of promising yet uncertain futures became more important than past glories.

## 10. New Media Futures - Part A: Theoretical Perspectives

Joint Session of RC07 Futures Research, RC14 Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture, and RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology

**Wednesday, July 14, 15:30-17:30 at Handels Volvo (Vasagatan 1)**

**Chair:** Markus S. SCHULZ (UIUC, USA) <isarc07@gmail.com>

**Presenters:**

**Friedrich KROTZ (U Erfurt, Germany):**

**The Concept 'Mediatization' as an Instrument to Study the Ongoing Development of Social and Cultural Life: Towards a Critical (Geo): Politics of the Internet**

**Abstract:** The long term consequences of the digitalization of data and information, the use of the computer and the growing networks of transportation of information more and more change the everyday life of the people, the work of institutions, enterprises and organizations, and in general of economy, democracy, culture and society. Social relations and forms of growing up, ways, how to earn money und politics and so on are affected by that. A concept to grasp this overall development as an ongoing meta-process is the concept of “Mediatization”: in as far as mediated communication becomes more and more frequent and important, in as far as communication is the basic human practice to construct ones world, and in as far as mediated communication is different in a lot of dimensions from face-to-face-communication, mediated communication today is also to be seen as a basic way of how we constitute reality. Mediatization is not a new, but an ongoing historical process, that started already before the invention of the alphabet and the ability to write, and it will not end with the invention of the Internet, the computer games or the “intelligent” robotic machines with which one can communicate today. Such a long term meta process Mediatization should be understood as a similar construct as Globalization, Commercialization or Individualization, as a long term process that takes place in different



ways in different historical phases in different cultures, and Mediatization is in a complex way intertwined with these other long term developments. How to conceptualize this, is the topic of an ongoing discussion in communication studies (Lundby, 2009; Krotz, 2008). It is thus evident, that such a meta process this is helpful to create a common frame to analyze the ongoing developments, that includes e.g. domestication theory, changes in identity theory, an understanding for a changing economy and political mechanisms. It is also evident that it is necessary for the civil society to discuss these processes in order to find out where we go and whether we want to go there. The presentation will explain the concept of Mediatization and show how it makes sense for a better understanding of what happens today. The presentation further will connect the Mediatization approach with sociological theories, especially with the ideas of George Herbert Mead, Norbert Elias, Pierre Bourdieu and the Cultural Studies.

**Esteve SANZ (Yale U, USA):**

**Towards an 'Open' Machine? Internet Culture, Bureaucracy and the Obama Administration**

Abstract: This article presents some notes and two case studies towards a cultural-sociological theory of the information society. It argues that the fusion of the Internet and bureaucracy is governed by the social construction of a new symbolic space: one that dislocates some of the fundamental rationalistic principles of modern organization. This space is structured through the binary openness/closeness, which articulates the dominant meaning of the Internet and defines its totemic character. As a result of its organizational adoption, a new culture of creativity is emerging in sharp contrast with the culture of secrecy that Max Weber identified as the characteristic ideology of rational bureaucracies.

**Christian FUCHS (U Salzburg, Austria):**

**Critique of the Political Economy of Web 2.0 Surveillance**

Abstract: "Web 2.0" platforms such as YouTube, MySpace, Facebook, Flickr, and Twitter that focus on data sharing, communication, community, and co-production have become very popular. It is therefore important to understand the economic organization of these platforms. The discussion of surveillance in Web 2.0 is important because such platforms collect huge amounts of personal data in order to work. The basic research question of this contribution is: How does the political economy of Web 2.0 work and what is the role of surveillance? For answering this question, further questions are asked: What is the role of surveillance in critical political economy studies? What is the role of surveillance in the political economy of capitalism? How does capital accumulation work on Web 2.0 platforms? What is the role of surveillance in Web 2.0 capital accumulation? The method employed in this paper is a combination of social theory and empirical research. For conceptualizing the role of surveillance in capitalism and on Web 2.0, critical political economy is used as method for theory-construction. Data collection about Internet usage and statistical analysis are used for analyzing the political economy of Web 2.0. For analyzing user perspectives, the results of a quantitative and qualitative online survey are reported. It is maintained that Web 2.0 is dominated by corporate interests and has not brought about a more democratic society or a more democratic media landscape. The results of a survey show that users see a contradiction of surveillance and communication/community at the heart of perceived disadvantages and advantages of Web 2.0. As policy conclusion, the perspectives of corporate watch platforms, online protests, opt out solutions, and non-commercial web platforms are discussed. The paper shows that the economic contradictions of modern society shape contemporary Internet usage. The logic of commodification, commerce, and profit maximization is permanently present in Internet usage. The danger is that the users' lives become strongly controlled by corporate interests and strategies.

**Caja THIMM (U Bonn, Germany):**

**Virtual World- Virtual Society: The Case of 'Second Life'**



Abstract: Second Life, the first “metaverse,” is a virtual world in which its users take on an avatar persona with which one can interact with other avatars and the virtual environment. As the users create the virtual environment themselves, this digital world reflects various “real” societal contexts. Copies of cities, embassies, businesses and political institutions as well as education facilities were put up in SL. But also the dark sides of society found its place—most recently virtual crimes from robbery to rape became a problem for many residents. Such diversity leads to the creation of an environment which resembles a neighborhood and opens up questions of social organization patterns. How the avatars (and their human counterparts) try to organize and (perhaps) democratize their newly created world, will be presented applying digital ethnography methods. Methods applied employ research avatars to collect data in a given ethnic context, in this case SL. Analytical measures were participatory observation and contextualization cues.

**Christina SCHACHTNER (Alpen-Adria-U Klagenfurt, Austria):**

**Cultural Flows and Virtual Publics: The Role of Digital Media in Trans-cultural Discourses**

Abstract: “Flow” is defined by the cultural anthropologist Ulf Hannerz (1997) as the movements that permeate modern society such as capital flows, the flows of raw materials or the flows of migrants. This paper addresses the flows that criss-cross virtual space: flows of information, images and communications. These are cultural flows, or, to use the terminology of Schütz and Luckmann (1975), inter-subjective meaning contexts consisting of values, social rules, world views and patterns of behaviour that are increasingly dissociated from their national base thanks to the digital media. They are articulated, passed on, qualified, rejected or transformed into something else in online discourses. The idea of culture as a “self-contained sphere” has become obsolete in an age of digital media. Terms such as trans-culturality and trans-nationality represent socio-cultural developments that are closely tied to the development of digital media. This paper comprises a theoretical and empirical investigation of how the social is formed under the impression of cultural flows, whether trans-cultural tendencies are becoming apparent in the virtual publics that are in the process of being created, and how such tendencies can be identified. The debate concerns questions about how differences are handled, about the importance of hybrid forms of life and socio-cultural membership(s). Is it necessary to abandon the concept of the “citizen” as a concept that establishes membership, as recommended by Seyla Benhabib (2008)? However, tendencies to the contrary are also raised, such as homogenisation and particularism. The presentation is to be at both the theoretical and empirical level. It includes investigation results obtained within the framework of the research project on “Subject constructions and digital culture” financed by the VW Stiftung, Hannover and the FWF, Vienna and currently being pursued at four university locations. The subject matter of the research being pursued in the sub-project at the Alpen-Adria-Universität is communication in virtual publics from a cultural studies perspective.

Distributed Paper:

**Philippe ROSS (U Ottawa, Canada):**

**Is There an Expertise of Production?**

Abstract: The rise of Web 2.0 has prompted debates around the legitimacy and contributions of professional and amateur producers in fields such as journalism and popular culture, but it also begs the question: what is the substance of the expertise now supposedly under threat by the anonymous, amateur masses? Mass communication theorists have argued that the media are agents of a social process of mediation (Couldry, 2008, 2003; Silverstone, 2005; Thompson, 1995) and that a practice common to practitioners, regardless of their technical competence, is that of bridging the gap between themselves and their audiences. If the production of successful contents and applications is, from the producers’ perspective, a matter of somehow tapping into latent public tastes, needs or demand, can



any one group claim exclusive ownership over such a social process? This paper extends recent debates in Science and Technology Studies (STS) on the validity of long-standing distinctions between expert and layperson to the field of new media. Drawing on a case study of a British publicly-funded production-research laboratory in educational technology, it shows how producers debate both the substance of production expertise and the reference group through which would-be producers acquire expertise –is it technical professions relevant to the endeavor or the target audience? The paper argues that producers are experience-based, ‘interactional experts’ (Collins and Evans, 2002, 2007) whose knowledge is (near) ubiquitous and mobilized in an ad hoc manner. As these insights stress opportunity, rather than ability, as a key factor in the mobilization of relevant knowledge in production, how can criteria of expertise be established in the abstract?

## 11. New Media Futures - Part B: Inequalities and Practices

Joint Session of RC07 Futures Research and RC14 Sociology of Communication, Knowledge

Thursday, July 15, 20:00-22:00 at Handels B22 (Vasagatan 1)

**Chairs:** Diana PAPADEMAS (SUNY-Old Westbury, USA) <dianapapademas@verizon.net>  
Marta SOLER (U Barcelona, Spain)

**Presenters:**

**Marco GUI (U Milano-Bicocca, Italy), Gianluca ARGENTIN (U Milano-Bicocca, Italy):**

**Aspects of the Digital Divide in the Digital Native Generation: Differences in Internet Access, Skills and Types of Use Compared, in a Random Sample of Northern Italian High-School Students**

Abstract: This article outlines the main results of a large scale survey on digital inequality. A detailed questionnaire on physical access conditions at home and types of uses of the web has been administered to a random sample of 65 third-year high school classes, producing data on 980 students. A test covering three main dimensions of digital literacy (theoretical, operational and evaluation skills) was also administered to the sample. Items include knowledge questions, situation-based questions and tasks to be performed online. A Rasch-type model was used to score the results. Through a robust regression analysis we investigate if a skills divide based on ascriptive differences, gender, social class and family cultural background, exists among the students at the three levels of digital differences analyzed. The results support the hypothesis that in also in environments where good quality and relatively equal educational opportunities are in place and where schools provide frequent opportunities to use the web (such as the Trentino region in Northern Italy), differences in the social characteristics examined in this study have an impact on all the three levels of the digital divide considered. A discussion on the substantial relevance of these differences and a comparison between the social implications of the differences found at the three levels of digital divide is provided, also pointing out the methodological challenges faced in trying to compare the width of the effects at the different levels. By looking at a young and digitally privileged universe, we aim to offer insight about possible scenarios regarding the social relevance of digital divide on the current and the future digital native generations.

**Laura ROBINSON (Santa Clara U, USA):**

**Unequal Futures: Digital Inequalities and Temporal Scarcities among Disadvantaged Youth**

Abstract: This paper illuminates the social processes through which economically disadvantaged youth in the US acquire particular skills and habits associated with the use of information technologies. Drawing on data from a multi-method study of economically disadvantaged Californian



teenagers, the study analyzes the connections between youths' conditions of access to information technology and their subjective orientations to the information they acquire online. This paper makes the argument that, even when disadvantaged youth enjoys access to information technology resources, they may not appropriate online informational content in the same way as their better endowed peers. Those disadvantaged youth who want to use the Internet but lack high-autonomy and high-quality access to information technology often face many competing demands on their time. When they confront this temporal scarcity they often develop a particular orientation to online content, a task-oriented "information habitus" which is imprinted with the "taste for the necessary" analyzed by Bourdieu. Basing its findings on primary survey data from 1,400 respondents and in-depth interview data with seventy respondents, this study outlines the character of this orientation and its relationship to both temporal scarcity and economic deprivation in the lives of "unwired" and only "partially wired" American high school students who wish to use online resources for schoolwork and other purposes. The findings show how disparities in access to information technology platforms can exacerbate the preexisting skills gap between economically, socially, and temporally differentiated segments of what is presumed to be a uniformly wired population. The study concludes by introducing a cross-national extension of the project based on a recently completed study of the information seeking practices of partially wired Argentinean youth.

**Adela ROS (Open U Catalonia, Spain), Alex BOSO (Pompeu Fabra U, Spain):**

**Immigrants' Accommodation to the Network Society: High Access for Staying in the Same Place?**

Abstract: The introduction of new information and communication technologies (ICTs) among immigrant population is one of the most relevant and recent social events in the field of migration studies. In general terms, so much the extent of the penetration of the ICTs among immigrant groups, as its possible consequences, are still unknown phenomena that have to be studied more in-depth. This study focuses, in particular, on the effects of the variable origin in the equipment and the use immigrants give to ICTs. Our analysis relies primarily on data coming from the Spanish Survey on the equipment and the use of information and communication technologies (Instituto Nacional de Estadística, 2008). The preliminary results show that the variable origin is significant when explaining the existent differences in the daily use and the equipment of ICTs by the overall Spanish population. Moreover, this variable has an independent effect when controlling for other determinant factors like age, level of studies or social status. We also present some data from interviews with different immigrant groups, which add to the explicative value of our research.

**Diego J. VICENTIN (IFCH-UNICAMP, Brazil):**

**The Future of Mobile Media: A Study of Cellular Networks**

Abstract: This paper intends to discuss the future possibilities created for mobile media. Our work links the changes in the mobile media to the data flow's acceleration process across the mobile networks. The increase of data flow (broadband) shapes the media, creating new ways of technical development and strengthening the user's involvement with media. New forms of gadget's function and uses emerge as the networks increase their bandwidth. To work on this idea, we will explore the historical and technical evolution of cellular networks since the first generation (1G) until the third generation (3G), linking this to the resulting changes in the shape and functions of mobile phones. The synergy between the network's evolution, the development and convergence of new gadgets, and the end-user's involvement results in a spiral of technical acceleration. Finally we will make projections about the expectations for the new evolutionary step of GSM networks, the LTE (4G), and the new forms of user's affection that will be brought by it.



**Sara MONACI (Università degli Studi di Torino, Italy), Claudio SCHIFANELLA (U Torino, Italy), Mario CATALDI (U Torino, Italy):**

**Social Media for Museums: A Comparative Analysis of Web Communication and the Blogosphere**

Abstract: In the last few years, the role of the blogosphere is becoming very important as a strategic dimension of online public debate; indeed it represents a space of communication where social discourses can be tracked and analyzed. In the past few years, museum blogs increased significantly in number: at the beginning of 2007, MuseumBlogs.org counted almost 100 blogs, while nowadays 379 blogs are listed, including both institutional blogs created by museums and those realized by individuals. Therefore some new questions arise: what kind of social discourses would emerge from the blogosphere? Which topics are debated? Can we compare them with the information disseminated on museums web sites? And, finally, what is the role of virtual publics' blogs with respect to institutional museums web communication? According to Henry Jenkins, blogs are facilitators for public discourses: they basically act as amplifiers for institutional agenda setting. Moreover, user-generated blogs can be particularly interesting in order to highlight social discourses concerning cultural heritage institutions. This paper will try to investigate those research questions through a quantitative content analysis of a sample of institutional museums web sites and related blogosphere's contents. We also present the M-Blog (Museum Blog) system that is able to retrieve the most relevant Blogosphere post-entries and evaluate correlations with the institutional knowledge provided by their official web pages.

**Nicole ZILLIEN (U Trier, Germany) and Gianna HAAKE (U Trier, Germany):**

**Internet Use by Infertile Couples**

Abstract: This paper addresses the question, how patients in the information age inform themselves about their illness and different methods of treatment. Using the example of infertile couples we analyze in which way laypersons absorb and communicate scientific knowledge offline and in new online environments. In the knowledge society science-related information has become available to anybody. At the same time science mostly offers fragile or even conflicting evidence. We ask how infertile couples searching for information cope with this situation. Existing surveys investigate their Internet use predominantly from a medical and practice-oriented perspective. Our research is based on these rather descriptive results but also takes into account theories of the information society, sociology of science, and results of sociological Internet research to gain a broader understanding of the reception of scientific knowledge especially in online communities. Furthermore we use several research methods: (1) Qualitative interviews with infertile couples, (2) a standardized online survey with members of fertility forums, and (3) a content analysis of a fertility forum.

Distributed Paper:

**Peter CORRIGAN (U New England, Australia):**

**Dead Dogs in Cyberspace: Time, Emotion and the Memorializing of Domestic Pets**

## **12. New Media Futures**

### **- Part C: Collective Action and Politics**

Joint Session of RC07 Futures Research, RC14 Sociology of Communication, Knowledge, RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology

**Friday, July 16, 17:45-19:45 at Handels B22 (Vasagatan 1)**

**Chairs:** Hermilio SANTOS (PUCRS Porto Alegre, Brazil) <hermilio@pucrs.br>



**Presenters:****María Esther DEL CAMPO GARCÍA (UCM, Spain), Jorge RESINA DE LA FUENTE (UCM, Spain):****Social Networks, New Mobilizations and Cyberpolitics:****Demonstrations of the Right and the Left in Spain (2004-2009)**

Abstract: The previous day of the Spanish general elections of 2004 when thousands of people poured into the streets to demonstrate for the media management of the 11-M attack by the Government in power, began a new form of political mobilization, stimulated across digital networks. Online media have since become an important area of socialization of the citizenship, as shown by the latest trends for the Center for Sociological Research of Spain (CIS). Internet has created a new form of politicization of the demands, to enable interconnection between individuals and groups through various links, portals of information and personal blogs. Both the left and right using these channels to Spanish mode of communication mechanisms, alliances and strategies for political mobilization, in a form of protest that it is more expressive than substantive, and is looking for visibility more than for social change.

**Tiago CARVALHO (CIES/ISCTE-IUL, Portugal), José Luís CASANOVA (CIES, ISCTE-IUL, Portugal):**  
**Blogsphere and Democracy in Portugal: Results of a Websurvey**

Abstract: In this paper we present the results of a web-survey applied in Portugal involving 209 opinion bloggers. This study has three goals : to characterize bloggers according to their social position, political activities, values and social orientations; to analyze the relation between online and "conventional" participation and how different types of participation relates with different values and beliefs; finally, to discuss new dynamics within the public sphere and their impact on democracy. The results show that bloggers are mainly men and professionals that combine online activism with political party and association involvement. It is a relatively homogeneous elite but however diverse in terms of values and political action. We have found four types of political action: protester, associative and protester, associative and party-member, and cumulative. Each type of political action involves different values and beliefs. In the end, we discuss the impact of the new media on the renewal of the public sphere, the opportunities that this new media creates to the enlargement of democracy and the support it gives to the expression of socio-political autonomy projects and to the construction of societal projects.

**Jessica LINDE (Linnaeus U, Sweden), Simon LINDGREN (Umeå U, Sweden):****The Subpolitics of File Sharing: A Swedish Case Study**

Abstract: Words like pirates and anti-pirates have become common in the cultural political debate, and the file sharing phenomenon is a delicate and disputed subject. The fact that people are organizing in networks to swap data files with each other has led film and music companies from all over the world to initiate a number of anti-piracy organizations, assigned to protect the right to culture and information. In Sweden, the industrial organization, the Bureau of Anti-piracy, and the network the Bureau of Piracy, represent the prevailing conflict. The purpose of this paper is to apply a sociological perspective on the collective act of file sharing. By focusing on the distinctly organized part of the file sharing movement, the goal is to describe how the collective action and the production of knowledge, taking place within the movement, can be understood and which the fundamental ideas are.

**Marcelo BURGOS PIMENTEL DOS SANTOS (NEAMP, Brazil), Claudio Luis DE CAMARGO PENTEADO (UFABC/NEAMP, Brazil), Rafael DE PAULA AGUIAR ARAÚJO (PUCSP/FESP/NEAMP, Brazil):****Political Action in Internet**

Abstract: Petrobras is a Brazilian publicly-traded company responsible for the petroleum market in Brazil. Recently it has been involved in a political discussion between government and opposition on "possible irregularities" in the management of the organization. So appears the blog *Fatos e Dados*, as



an alternative mechanism of the company to report and disclose the full content of information transmitted to the press and also publish their version of events during the creation of a Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry (CPI), in the National Congress. The blog works as a mechanism of communication via the Internet, trying to create a new dynamic in relations of production and in the transmission of political information. Those facts open an alternative way of disseminating news, breaking the monopoly of traditional media companies, stimulating new practices policies in the Information Society. The operation of the blog has generated an intense debate between its defenders and journalists who questioned about its ethics and legality. This article analyzes what we call “political action” of Petrobras by creating a counter-information to the press coverage. Then, a new field of political debate and alternative information channel is configured, creating new public spaces for production and circulation of information.

**Andrea CALDERARO (European U Institute, Italy):**

**Blogging Inequalities: Contextualizing the Political Meaning of Blogs**

Abstract: Among the various instruments of the Internet, scholars have welcomed blogs as a medium able to generate a democratic model of public communication. Blogs create a self-organizing mesh of public communications, which allows people to become spreaders of information and producers of political contents in a way much easier than with other media. Within the framework of politics, scholars expect that this scenario strengthens democracy. However, so far, research in this field has largely focused only on the case of the US, and thus does not allow us to draw conclusions about the Blogosphere in general. This paper aims to overcome this lack by addressing the following questions from a transnational perspective of analysis: Do Blogs influence politics in an equal fashion worldwide? Do Blogs have an impact on politics as a technology as such? Or, rather, do people blog differently depending the context where they are active? This paper empirically explores how Blogs are used according to local conditions, such as political and cultural needs, and unequal Internet access. Following the “social constructivism technology” approach proposed by Bijker and Pinch (1984), I first, provide empirical findings about the unequal distribution of bloggers worldwide using Technorati as source. I then contextualize how people use Blogs by comparing the Blogosphere of two contrasting cases: the US and Iran. Focusing on both countries, I investigate how local conditions, including the divide of Internet access, economic and political status, affect how the Blogosphere impacts on politics. This leads me to demonstrate that citizens construct the political meaning of Blogs according to their local technological, social and political context.

**Elias SAID-HUNG (U del Norte, Colombia):**

**Digital Social Networking Tools Employed by Social Movements**

Abstract: There are multiple uses for digital social networks, beside personal contacts. Social organizations that focused on political participation found a scenario to promote different projects on social development, as well as a means of resistance to governmental control or military conflicts. During the last year we have seen how Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and others have promoted social movements in civil society and political actors in the following instances: elections in Venezuela and US, in Colombia by the peace movement against FARC (*Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia*), and now in the social complains against the electoral result in Iran. Therefore, the paper explores the extent through which social movements, organized or created by citizens and civil society, use digital social networks to exercise alternative spaces of empowerment.

Distributed Paper:

**Tatiana OMELTCHENKO (U Virginia, USA):**

**The Popular Culture of Activism 2.0**

## 13. Future of State and Insurgent Terrorism - Part A

Wednesday, July 14, 17:45-19:45 at Handels B22 (Vasagatan 1)

Chair: Jeff GOODWIN (NYU, USA) <jeff.goodwin@nyu.edu>

Presenters:

**Gregory M. MANEY (Hofstra U, USA):**

**Measuring and Explaining Terror:**

**Statistical Analyses of Indiscriminate Political Violence in Northern Ireland, 1969-2008**

Abstract: This paper critically evaluates widely used definitions, measures, and explanations of terror. Using a multi-source database of political deaths taking place in Northern Ireland between 1969 and 2008, the authors examine: (1) the extent to which lethal political violence against civilians in Northern Ireland occurred for reasons beyond the ethno-nationalist affiliations of the victims; (2) the relative use of terror by state actors and by insurgents as well as possible linkages between their uses; (3) other factors (both frequently asserted and often overlooked) that may significantly effect levels of terror; and (4) changes over time in the levels, dynamics, and causes of terror. We conclude with a discussion of the methodological, theoretical, and practical implications of our study.

**Chares DEMETRIOU (Masaryk U, Czech Republic):**

**Nascent State, Violence, and Legitimization: Lessons from Ireland and Cyprus**

Abstract: Just as the dominant paradigms explaining state legitimacy are typically macro-accounts, accounts of state transformation tend to focus on systemic crises, including legitimization crises. While the macro approaches to the puzzles of state transformation have much to offer, however, they are also limited in that they fail to appreciate the volatility and indeterminacy that characterizes moments of change. Most particularly, they come short of explaining the multifaceted role of violence in these moments as well as the precariousness entailed in the popular stand vis-à-vis such violence. I propose a conceptual treatment of the legitimization of the nascent state and of the violence against and for it, a treatment which abstracts and synthesizes macro and meso dynamics. Accordingly I “open up” the definition of legitimization in two ways. First, it is taken to imply a process, whether it is with regard to the state or to violence –thus “legitimization” and not “legitimacy.” Secondly, it is taken to imply a range of dispositions that includes the acceptance of inevitability as well as approval. I propose, furthermore, to apply my conceptual scheme on the analysis of the processes of post-colonial state consolidation in Ireland and Cyprus. While sharing commonalities in their respective processes of anti-colonial contention, the post-British-rule histories of Ireland and Cyprus demonstrate distinct patterns in the ways that violence related to the state project.

**Felipe PATHÉ-DUARTE (Portuguese Catholic U, Portugal):**

**Religious Violence or Political Subversion: The Threat of Al-Qaeda’s Doctrine in Europe**

Abstract: I will demonstrate that the doctrines which impel and justify Al-Qaeda's actions go way beyond religious irrationalism, articulating it with revolutionary ways of subversion, not only in its doctrine but also in its operation. The approach ground has been set: violence and terror which serve as a mean of gaining power of a movement whose inconsistent narrative merges modern revolutionary doctrines and religious faith (which, in part, helps to justify the initial violence). In other words, one either performs a rational analysis around the goals or goes forward into the deeply emotional motivations. Finally, as a result of this situation, we will try to point out the risk represented by Al-Qaeda's narrative in Europe. It is well-known that Europe became a global stage for jihadism as global subversion. Permeable to the jihadism are radical exiles and young second and third generation Muslim migrants. The goal is to



operationalize control of human terrain, and try a “re-Islamization from below,” a long-term infiltration into European society. For that reason, Al-Qaeda's doctrine reveals itself as a long term threat in Europe. However this threat reveals itself as growing, precisely by being an avatar of revolutionary movements merged with profoundly religious characteristics.

**Lorenzo BOSI (European U Institute, Italy), Marco GIUGNI (U of Geneva, Switzerland):**

**The Outcomes of Political Violence: Ethical, Theoretical, and Methodological Issues**

Abstract: If political violence is understood to be the strategic use of physical force to influence several audiences and to be perpetrated by non-state actors for political purposes, be these ethno-national, religious, or ideological, what are then its outcomes? The literature on political violence and terrorism has so far hardly ever addressed this question. Ethical issues, first of all, and disagreement on how we can measure political violence outcomes, secondarily, seem to have hindered systematic investigations and theoretical development in this important area of research. Our intention in this paper is to stimulate reflection about ethical, theoretical, and methodological issues relating to the study of the outcomes of political violence. We first focus on the range of potential outcomes associated with political violence, then briefly review the difficulties faced by research in this field, and conclude with suggestions as to the most fruitful avenues for further research. We suggest that this particular field of study would benefit most from cross-fertilization with the literature produced by social movement and contentious politics scholars interested on how collective action matters, from comparative empirical research and from the search of those mechanisms and processes by which armed groups plausibly have impacts. It is also our intention that this exchange should be a two-way process. This research contributes as well to the social movements' literature, particularly by enriching its scant attention to violent forms of political action. In relation to this we focus particularly on the socio-political impacts of political violence if contrasted with non-violent strategies. Throughout, we draw on empirical examples obtained from the literature on contentious politics.

**Gilda ZWERMAN (SUNY-Old Westbury, USA), Patricia G. STEINHOFF (University of Hawaii, USA):**

**Identity, Movement Networks and the State: Exit Strategies of Armed Activists in the US and Japan**

Abstract: This study examines the exit paths of former members of armed, clandestine groups. Using long-term qualitative data on 75 individuals associated with several different organizations in the US and Japan during the 1970s and 1980s, we show how interactions with movement networks continue to shape identity in the context of varying conditions of repression, even after their organizations have dissolved. By connecting individual reconstructions of identity to movement networks under varying conditions of incarceration, exile or underground life, this study contributes to the dialogue concerning patterns of disengagement from social movements and terrorism (Crenshaw, 1991; Klandermans, 2003; Bandura, 2004 ; Cronin, 2006; Miller, 2007; Horgan and Bjorgo, 2009) and the role of state intervention in the process.

Distributed Paper:

**Mahmudur Rahman BHUIYAN (U Manitoba, Canada):**

**Limits of International Regimes and the Cost of US Hegemony**

Abstract: The paper tries to establish relationship between insurgent terrorism and the limits of international regimes. Contemporary global regimes, such as the United Nations, World Trade Organization, World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, were established as elements of a new world order with the primary patronage of the US in the post-War world. Regime theory in international relations emerged in the 1970s with optimism that the world order created by the US can still continue to sustain even if US hegemony demises. The primary argument was that the demands of the regimes among the states in the world will let them sustain. However, the world has not witnessed a time when



regimes could make hegemony irrelevant. Instead, since the time when US has resumed its coercive role in the post-Cold War world, the neoliberal notion of the “society of states” has seriously been undermined by the realist notion of “anarchical world.” US’ arbitrary use of international regimes and consequent demise of the regimes’ effectiveness in accommodating the interests of states and people of the world have placed the US hegemony in direct confrontation with those who find themselves as being exploited or deprived. The cost of US hegemony is growing since its relative power seems to have declined.

## **14. Future of State and Insurgent Terrorism - Part B**

**Wednesday, July 14, 20:00-22:00 at Handels B22 (Vasagatan 1)**

**Chair:** Jeff GOODWIN (NYU, USA) <jeff.goodwin@nyu.edu>

### **Presenters:**

**Donatella DELLA PORTA (European U Institute, Italy):**

#### **Social Movements Studies and Political Violence**

**Abstract:** Attention to extreme forms of political violence in the social sciences has been episodic, and studies of different forms of political violence have followed different approaches, with “breakdown” theories mostly used for the analysis of right-wing radicalism, social movement theories sometime adapted to research on left-wing ones, and area study specialists focusing on ethnic and religious forms. Some of the studies on extreme forms of political violence that have developed within the social movement tradition have nevertheless been able to trace processes of conflict escalation through the detailed examination of historical cases. This paper assesses some of the knowledge acquired in previous research approaching issues of political violence from the social movement perspective, as well as the challenges coming from new waves of debate on terrorist and counterterrorist action and discourses. In doing this, the paper reviews contributions coming from research looking at violence as escalation of action repertoires within protest cycles; political opportunity and the state in escalation processes; resource mobilization and violent organizations; narratives of violence; militant constructions of external reality. Using the author’s own research on left-wing political violence in Italy and Germany in the 1970s, on ethnic violence in the Basque Countries in the 1970s and 1980s, on rightwing violence in Italy, Germany and the US in the years 2000 as well as secondary analysis of other cases, within a most different research design, the author singles out some causal mechanisms that intervene between macro, meso and micro (i.e. systemic, organizational and individual) levels.

**Ziad MUNSON (Lehigh U, USA):**

#### **Organizing Political Violence: Strategy, Ideology, and the Development of Terrorist Groups**

**Abstract:** This paper seeks to understand the organizational correlates of political violence and terrorism. The analysis introduces a newly created database that traces the birth and development of the most active terrorist organizations over the last twenty years. The systematic qualitative information in the dataset allows us to identify key similarities, as well as important variation, in groups that engage in terrorist attacks. Preliminary analysis shows that organizational leadership heterogeneity tends to reduce the number and scope of terrorist campaigns, that terrorist activity typically develops after organizational failures, that organizational mergers tend to increase terrorist activity, and that the ideological frames used by organizations engaged in terrorism tend to be mainstream and consistent with broad public opinion within the societies they operate. The bulk of research on terrorism over the past decade has focused on either individual level factors or larger structure factors responsible for



generating and sustaining political violence. The initial findings presented here suggest that organizational-level analysis—particularly that which focuses on dynamic processes rather than static factors—may add substantially to our understanding of political violence today.

**Betty Ann DOBRATZ (Iowa State U, USA), Stephanie L. SHANKS-MEILE (Indiana U NW, USA), Lisa K. WALDNER (U St. Thomas, USA):**

**Terrorism and White Separatists in the USA: A Look at Leaderless Resistance**

Abstract: This paper explores the terrorist strategy of leaderless resistance that some white separatists/supremacists claim to be using in the US. Based on an analysis of the authors' interviews with white separatists and other available data, we examine how the rhetoric associated with terrorism in general and leaderless resistance in particular is used, why it has been used, and its likely use in the future. Few actual events of terrorism in this movement have occurred, most significantly those associated with the Silent Brotherhood in the 1980s. The government's reaction to these events and to other cases such as the siege at Ruby Ridge serve to encourage the rhetoric about terrorism. In addition, the threat of terrorist activities captures the attention of movement members making them feel like they are part of a significant social movement. It also seems to both generate media attention and provide an avenue for recruitment into the white separatist movement in the US. Possible implications for the Obama administration will be considered.

**Eitan Y. ALIMI (Hebrew U, Israel):**

**The Relational Context of the Impetus for Political Violence and Terrorism: A Test of Rival Explanations in the Case of Jewish Settlers Contention Before and After the Gaza Pullout**

Abstract: Why is it that some protest movements engaged in politics of contention experience radicalization on the part of splinter groups whereas others do not? Perceiving radicalization as the expansion of collective action frames to more extreme agendas and the adoption of more violent forms of contention (including categorical, indiscriminate violence), how can we explain the lack of radicalization despite the prevalence of extreme ideologies and environmental incentives for violent reactions? It is suggested that the process of radicalization is first and foremost relational. What triggers (or impedes) radicalization of tactics is contingent on the degree of coordination within and between parties involved in episodes of contention. As such it is expected that the greater the extent of coordination within and between parties involved in politics of contention is, the lower the saliency of extreme action frames and aggressive propensities is and, as a result, the smaller the portion of violent tactics would become. Comparing the predominantly nonviolent Jewish settlers campaign against the Gaza Pullout with the subsequent predominantly violent, terrorist-like campaign against the dismantling of the Amona illegal outpost, it is shown that the reason for the striking differences is found in the willingness and ability of leaders from the various parties involved to maintain high degree of coordination in the case of the former and the gradual disintegration of coordination in the case of the latter. Supportive evidence are provided from a multi-method comparative research design that includes three complementary types of data: (1) Thirty-two in-depth interviews with key-players involved in both campaigns, (2) content analysis of three hundreds and thirty newspaper articles from media outlets published by various groups from the Jewish settlers coalition following transformative events, and (3) data on levels and forms of contention (protest/repression event data catalogue) following those same transformative events.

**J.Craig JENKINS (Ohio State U, USA), Kristopher ROBISON (Northern Illinois U, USA), Edward CRENSHAW (Ohio State U, USA):**

**Violence against Who? Insurgent and Terrorist Violence in Global Perspective**



Abstract: A persisting confusion in the literature on political violence has been the distinction between state-targeted insurgent violence and terrorist attacks against civilians. Drawing on this distinction between insurgent and terrorist violence, we used pooled cross-sectional time-series analysis of global counts of violent attacks 1968-2004 to examine the social and political factors giving rise to these often overlapping but distinct forms of political violence. A key differentiating factor is the development of the mass media, especially Western press bureaus and diplomatic outposts in the developing world, and the presence of ongoing civil wars. The development of mass media, especially Western media, creates a stage for the political drama of terrorist violence but has no effect on insurgent attacks. Democratization and the presence of Western embassies in the presence of sharp income inequalities work to magnify the resonance of this terrorist stage. Insurgency is in contrast rooted in poverty, weak and corrupt repressive states and ethnic disparities, sharing many of the same driving forces as on-going civil wars. We conclude with suggestions about how analysts can differentiate these often overlapping and confounded types of violence, making it more possible to understand the distinctive dynamics that generate distinctive types of political violence.

**Kristopher K. ROBISON (Northern Illinois U, USA):**

**When Terror (Doesn't) Hit Home:**

**Evaluating the Qualitative and Quantitative Differences between Domestic and Foreign Terrorism**

Abstract: At present little research considers the distinctions in targeting choices that terrorist actors make. Even less research empirically analyzes the nature, extent and diversity of domestic versus foreign terrorism specifically. In this paper, I argue that terrorist targeting of domestic (at home) entities versus foreign entities reflects distinct differences in specific kinds of terrorist organizations. I also descriptively and analytically evaluate the differences in terrorist targeting along the axis of foreign and domestic targets using two major cross-national data sources on terrorism. Specifically, I analyze whether terrorism that strikes domestic targets differs substantively in ideology, tactics and destructiveness from foreign terrorism. I also empirically analyze and compare the determinants of domestic and foreign terrorism based upon theoretically informed hypotheses predicting differences in targeting outcomes. Finally, I consider whether the two types of terrorism have morphed over time and how the rise of Islamist terrorism has brought new dimensions to both kinds of terror.

## **15. New Sociological Perspectives (Roundtables Session)**

**Thursday, July 15, 10:45-12:45 at Svenska Mässan, Hall F**

Coordinator: Scott NORTH (U Osaka, Japan) north@hus.osaka-u.ac.jp

### **15.1 New Sociological Perspectives (Roundtable)**

**Thursday, July 15, 10:45-12:45 at Svenska Mässan, Hall F**

**Chair:** Ricardo F. MACIP (Benemérita UA Puebla, Mexico) <keropedo@yahoo.com>

**Presenters:**

**Ricardo F. MACIP (Benemérita U Autónoma de Puebla, Mexico):**

**Fragmentation and Neoliberal Hubris in Environ-mentality**

Abstract: Following the enthusiasm of the 1990s as a decade marked by the dismantling of authoritarian and totalitarian regimes in Central-Eastern Europe and Latin America, the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century



was marked by a capricious agenda in culture and politics. The “transition towards democracy” proved to be harsher than expected and the experience under real existing electoral democracies less exciting than aspired. The begetting of sweeping unconformities was thus part of the creative forces pushing for radical politics and culture. An intellectual and activist site where such process is still evident is among New Social Movements. In this paper I contend that instead of being sites of resistance and opposition, they are the residual elements of a process of domination. The neoliberal hegemony depends on civil society to confront it with radical pronouncements that work as rich and fragmented struggles aiming the dissolution of political subjects. Specifically I look at environmental discourses “from the left and below” as the colonized responses to a hydra-like Empire. Working on it I will try to answer the following question: if the force confronting humanity is a well identified hubris, why would the political strategy of opposition be made out of a chain of empty signifiers?

**Atonio MORFÍN (UAM-Xochimilco, Mexico):**

#### **Epochal Mutation, Labor and Domination**

Abstract: In this paper I will analyze labor as the specific form taken by social relations in contemporary capitalism. In order to understand current processes of domination I will analyze labor’s actual form as a social relation that (re)produces capital. We cannot understand the transformations in processes of domination without understanding their labor counterparts. This is a corresponding relationship, which is continually erased, divorced and overseen in social theory and the analysis of social movements. What is more there is a constant demand to separate the ways to talk about them and the research on them. I am interested in understanding the contemporary forms of domination, the specific mutations it currently undergoes, and the possibilities of counter-hegemonic resistance. Domination is seldom evident; it conceals itself and I contend that it’s veiling is an essential element of its structuring and success. Rather than a mere appearance the process appearance has to be unveiled and fleshed out from labor as the key site of struggle, entry point and platform of counter-hegemonic resistance.

**Ramon VARGAS MASEDA (NA, NA):**

#### **Incorporating Art into Social Theory as a Means to Transcend Determinism**

Abstract: My paper refers to the importance and pertinence of incorporating art into sociological theory, recurring to the dramaturgical perspective of Erving Goffman to propose a way of relating them. Sociological theory has neglected its relation to other forms of knowledge based in an epistemological perspective which can be defined as the Western metaphysical tradition. This epistemological tradition explicates the multiple dichotomies in sociological theory, particularly the dichotomy between science as an objective way of thinking as opposed to art, which is still considered as a subjective knowledge, and also the dichotomy between structure and agency. The determinism that involves these dichotomies reduces the richness of social reality and sociological theory, as well as it impedes the search for new approaches to the analysis of social reality. Therefore, new approaches are needed to understand the future of our society and in that purpose, the sociological theory of Goffman and his use of the dramaturgical perspective can be seen as a useful theoretical framework for sociological inquiry because it allows to think beyond determinism and dichotomical thinking, applying it to a wide scope of different social problems. However, sociology has had a strong historical relation to determinism and it will be obsolete only when we can prove its ineffectiveness.

**Luís MARTÍNEZ ANDRADE (ÉHESS, France):**

#### **Social Theory and Social Movements in Latin America: Towards the Decolonization of Knowledge(s)**

Abstract: The social movements at the turn of the century in Latin America have questioned the universal practices and theoretical foundation of the left. The socio-political shaping of anti-systemic movements has come from subjects outside the hegemonic discourse (indigenous, peasants,





unemployed and Afro-Latinos). These movements rejected the ideological framework of right and left and effectively replaced it. In this paper I would echo them criticizing the main weaknesses of liberalism and Marxism. Building on the contributions of Tricontinental authors I would also argue against current postmodern relativism and intolerant Marxism. Decolonizing power ought to be linked with decolonizing knowledge. Social sciences ought to respond to this double critique or face the consequence to remain as subordinate discursive sites.

#### Distributed Paper:

#### **Eike HEINZE (U Bremen, Germany): World-Systems Analysis Reviewed**

Abstract: World-Systems Analysis is one of the most interesting approaches in social science at present. It has not reached its limits yet and still has a huge potential. Unfortunately in many countries, e.g. Germany, it is only known to very few social scientists. Therefore, in this presentation the strengths and weaknesses of world-systems analysis will be discussed and we will try to answer the question how this approach can be developed furthermore. Finally we will discuss what world-systems analysis can contribute to social movement and social change making the new world-system more democratic and egalitarian than the old one.

## **15.2 New Approaches (Roundtable)**

Thursday, July 15, 10:45-12:45 at Svenska Mässan, Hall F

**Chair:** Vanessa BARKER (U Stockholm, Sweden, USA) <vanessa.barker@sociology.su.se>

#### **Presenters:**

#### **Emilia RODRIGUES ARAÚJO (U Minho, Portugal):**

#### **Future in Politics: Between Legitimation, Justification and Uncertainty**

Abstract: This presentation seeks to explore the concept of future as well as the relation between politics and future. It is based on a discourse analysis of speeches of European political leaders appealing to the “construction of a European common future.” Drawing on social theory developments on social change, power of politics and democratization processes, this data analysis provides an overview about the level of diversity within each discourse and between them. This shows, despite the economic and financial crises, an anticipated increase centrality on present, while future is assumed as a discursive resource in which political leaders entangle, in a linear and Promethean manner, the possibility “of all European states” to succeed in stepping towards an increasingly open future. Though, detached from its rhetorical vein, this horizon of action lacks substance in terms of concrete processes and actions carried out in present time of each society. Subsequently, it also shows the intense processes of legitimation which uncover different and somehow unequal modes of dealing with present time. This is mostly noticed in what concerns the way political systems approach the effective and the potential use of technology and science. The communication discusses the main reasons for this.

#### **Svetlana HRISTOVA (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria):**

#### **Public Image of Romani People, Constructed by Their Community Media**

Abstract: The research topic investigates the transformation of the public image of Romani people in the electronic community broadcasts during the last decade after the democratic changes in Bulgaria. The analysis outlined a boundary between “the defensive” (combating stereotypes and the negative labeling) and the “boosted” (assertive) representation of the Roma in media. Figuratively, the “boundary” has occurred within the period of 2000-04 upon signing the agreements between representatives of the Roma community and the Bulgarian government. The affirmative negotiation



between the community and the Bulgarian officials resulted from the EU-integration processes of the country and the appeal of the European Community for bringing ethnic minorities into active social Selves. Media representations of Roma altered after the demarcation 2000-04: Romani people became more insistent in claiming their ethnic identity in public as a rationalized identity, which has not been openly manifested so far. Being a Roma is currently declared as irrevocable and time-honored part of the mainstream national culture. The methodological approach is complex and it encompasses basic theories of Sociology of Communication, Social Psychology, Ethnic Sociology and political rhetoric. The methods are discourse analysis, focus groups, in-depth interviews, ethnomethodology.

**Eser KÖKER (Ankara U, Turkey), Ulku DOGANAY (Ankara U, Turkey), Fatih KESKIN (Ankara U, Turkey), Inan ÖZDEMİR (Ankara U, Turkey):**

**Competition of Nationalism in Media at General Elections 2007**

Abstract: The general elections of 2007 in Turkey coincide with a historical juncture where the nationalistic discourses have rapidly gained currency. Throughout the political campaigns previous to the general elections both the political parties and the media made an effort to keep nationalism fresh in the agenda. The media facilitated the circulation of discourses full of nationalistic themes and figures during the election campaigns. This paper dwells on how the media incorporate nationalistic themes into the electoral competition of the political parties and aims to demonstrate the proximity between the way in which the state of addressing the nation was naturalized throughout election campaigns, and the mode of the media “to prepare the elector to the election scene.” Within this framework it is argued that the media prefer an antagonistic position between different representations of nationalism for spectacular design of the election scene, and the themes and elements which decorate this spectacle are taken up. The study argues that in the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the media defined nationalism as the *sine qua non* setting of the political scene, “familiarized” any type of nationalist discourse thus created a competition among them. In this framework the news reports of newspapers and TV channels which are considered to be one of the major actors in the process of popularization of nationalistic themes in the general elections of 2007 have been analyzed on the basis of official election campaign period (21 June-21 July).

**Sultan KHAN (U KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa):**

**Provision of Sustainable and Liveable Low Income Human Settlements in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa: Policy Contradictions and Challenges**

Abstract: The provision of liveable and sustainable low income housing in South Africa is a highly contested social issue which has filtered into the new democracy posing major challenges for policy makers, development practitioners and agents. Since the advent of democracy, the constitutional rights of all South Africans are protected and the state is required to take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realization of this right. The establishment of human settlements for low income earners in the South African context generally implies affordability constraints, especially in respect of access to basic goods and services on the part of persons or households with low incomes. It also implies a number of conditions associated with poverty such as hunger, dependency, limited upward mobility, lack of personal growth and social exclusion as well as homelessness, poor housing and poor living conditions. This paper examines the housing policy context in one of South Africans most impoverished and politically contested province. It highlights contradictions and challenges facing the province in the provision of sustainable and liveable human settlements for the many homeless and low income earners in the province.

**Eloy ALVES FILHO (U Federal de Viçosa, Brazil) and Arlete SALCIDES (U Federal do Pampa, Brazil):**  
**Is It Possible to Be Happy after Imposed Migration? Resettlers of the President JK Power Plant, Brazil**



Abstract: The concept of Quality of Life has deserved special attention of the international academic community. In this study, this concept involves objective and subjective dimensions that constitute the welfare and happiness of people. Inspiration was sought in studies focusing on the empirical determinants of happiness, such as the World Values Survey and research works conducted by the Center for Bhutan Studies for the accomplishment of the present study, which aimed at identifying the degrees of happiness of families resettled in new rural areas of five municipalities of Minas Gerais, Brazil, due to the construction of the President JK Power Plant. A form with 34 indicators was developed and applied to 61 participants, who valued (on a 1-4 scale) those indicators according to their living condition. The study revealed significant differences in the levels of happiness of the resettled people in five municipalities, especially regarding the lack of new schools, kindergartens, recreational areas, health centers, roads, bridges and water availability. This work will provide support to the formulation of public policies aiming at reducing the impacts that have negatively affected the lives of rural workers in Minas Gerais.

### **15.3 Social Movement and Anthropological Materialism: Future Perspectives (Roundtable)**

Thursday, July 15, 10:45-12:45 at Svenska Mässan, Hall F

**Chair:** Marc BERDET (U Paris-Sorbonne, France) <marcberdet@free.fr>

**Presenters:**

We would like to examine and actualize different facets of the Benjaminian concept of anthropological materialism in relation to social movements in the past, in the present and in the future. We will attempt to picture the figure of the sociologist as a ragpicker who is assembling "phantasmagoria," anthropological materialism and social movement as a privileged entry to Benjamin's Arcades Project. Anthropological materialism will thus be an object (socialist utopias, etc.), as well as part of the methodology (combined with historical materialism) imprinted by this object.

**Marc BERDET (U Paris-Sorbonne, France): Phantasmagoria, Social Movement and Anthropological Materialism: The Sociologist as a Ragpicker**

**Sami KHATIB (U Berlin, Germany): Social Movements through Walter Benjamin's Trans-materialist Materialism**

**Kyung-Ho CHA (U Berlin, Germany): The Poetics of Matter: Walter Benjamin's Arcades Project and the Sociology of Science**

Distributed Papers:

**Paola FERRUTA (U Bielefeld, Germany): The Pros and Cons of the Flesh: Saint-Simonian's Carnal Knowledge and Subversive Gender Anthropology**

**Meike SCHMIDT-GLEIM (U Alessandria, Italy): The Revolution is Man-Made: Understanding the Tehran Revolts through Anthropological Materialism**

### **15.4 Nuevas perspectivas sociológicas - mesa en español (New Sociological Perspectives—Roundtable in Spanish)**

Thursday, July 15, 10:45-12:45 at Svenska Mässan, Hall F

**Chair(s):** Andoni EIZAGIRRE (U Mondragón, Spain) <AndoniEizagirre@huhezi.edu>  
Eguzki URTEAGA (U País Vasco, Spain) <eguzki.urteaga@ehu.es>

**Presenters:**

**Andoni EIZAGIRRE (U Mondragón, Spain), Eguzki URTEAGA (U País Vasco, Spain):**

**La gobernanza de la ciencia en Europa (The Governance of Science in Europe)**

**Abstract:** The studies on the social perception of the science and his relation with the scientific politics and the society have generated a controversy which implications are appreciated so much at level teórico as politically. In this communication, we raise that the dimensions that join to understand the concept of social perception of the science and the handled hypothesis determine the explanatory variables and the initiatives relative to the government of the science and the society. Our hypothesis is that the new reserves, in relation to the governance of the science, answers to the difficulties that exist to understand what really worries the people and the validity of a culture of the science that omits the widest social environment. Nevertheless, this communication recognizes the last changes that have taken place on the subject of scientific politics to favour the social participation and to explore the existing tension between the different rationalities in relation to this opening.

**Abstract in Spanish:** Los estudios sobre la percepción social de la ciencia y su relación con las políticas científicas y la sociedad han generado una controversia cuyas implicaciones se aprecian tanto a nivel teórico como político. En esta comunicación, planteamos que las dimensiones que se incorporan para comprender el concepto de percepción social de la ciencia y la hipótesis manejada condicionan las variables explicativas y las iniciativas relativas al gobierno de la ciencia y la sociedad. Así, nuestro hipótesis es que las nuevas reticencias, en relación a la gobernanza de la ciencia, responden a las dificultades que existen para entender lo que realmente preocupa a la gente y a la vigencia de una cultura de la ciencia que omite el entorno social más amplio. No obstante, esta comunicación reconoce los últimos cambios que se han producido en materia de política científica para favorecer la participación social y explorar la tensión existente entre las diferentes racionalidades en relación a esa apertura.

**Carlos DE LA PUENTE (UCM, Spain):**

**Termina la era Descartes empieza la era Comte o la marcha de la sociología hacia una base material y objetiva: Propuesta de un modelo razonable de funcionamiento del Sistema Nervioso (The End of the Descartes Era Begins the Comte Era, or the Movement of Sociology towards a Material and Objective Base: Proposal of a Reasonable Working Model of the Nervous System)**

**Abstract:** To propose the end of the Descartes' era, it supposes that besides considering the application of the philosophy to the sociology, the Comte's era should be begun, what supposes to also apply the knowledge neuroscientists to the sociology. The departure base is the suggestion that makes Comte in the Lesson 45 of the *Cours de Philosophie Positive*, and the relationship with the brain of the concepts considered key for the sociology and that they were discovered by its founders: the social facts, the social action, the mean of the action and the ideal type, and that themselves related them with the brain, in an explicit or implicit way. Considering that these concepts are in themselves information, they should be part of the component cognitive that is stored and produced by the brain. Then a reasonable model of working of the Nervous System is proposed, trying where the information can be stored, which its format can be and consequently how it would act. Based on this position it is made the defense of the thesis Hierarchical Nested Duplicately and the proposal of the hypothesis Replicant.

**Abstract in Spanish:** Proponer el final de la era Descartes, supone que además de considerar la aplicación de la filosofía a la sociología, se debe iniciar la era Comte, lo que supone aplicar también los conocimientos neurocientíficos a la sociología. La base de partida es la sugerencia que hace Comte en la Lección 45 del *Cours de Philosophie Positive*, y la relación con el cerebro de los conceptos considerados

clave para la sociología y que fueron descubiertos por sus padres fundadores: los hechos sociales, la acción social, el sentido de la acción y el tipo ideal, y que ellos mismos los relacionaron con el cerebro, de forma explícita o implícita. Considerando que estos conceptos son en sí mismos información, deben formar parte del componente cognitivo, que es almacenado y producido por el cerebro. Entonces se propone un modelo razonable de funcionamiento del Sistema Nervioso, tratando dónde puede almacenarse la información, cuál puede ser su formato y por consiguiente cómo actuaría. En base a este planteamiento se hace la defensa de la tesis Jerárquica Anidada Duplicante y la propuesta de la hipótesis Replicante.

**Napoleón VELÁSTEGUI (Colegio de Sociólogos del Guayas, Ecuador):**

**América Latina: Movimientos Sociales y Teoría del Cambio (Latin America: Social Movements and Theory of Change)**

Abstract in Spanish: Al determinismo no basta declararlo muerto, es necesario darle apropiada sepultura. 1. Problema: la dirección del enfoque sociológico frente a los cambios sociales en América Latina no potencia conceptualmente su riqueza operativa. 2. Importancia del tema: la dirección del enfoque contribuiría a garantizar una mejor síntesis de los movimientos sociales en AL como contribución a la teoría del cambio en sociología. ¿Podríamos replantear una de las preguntas que nos convoca : “¿How could theories that avoid the future be modified?,” por: “¿cuáles son las teorías que construyen ese nuevo tejido conceptual para modificarnos y revitalizarnos junto a ellas? 3. Enfoque: metodológico. La carencia de un “gran angular” holístico, excluye los aportes de otras ciencias, en particular de las ciencias naturales, la ecología, las matemáticas, para nutrir el aparato conceptual de la sociología. 4. Resultados: orientados a promover políticas de investigación concretas. 5. Implicaciones: estos movimientos sociales que no sólo alientan visiones del futuro sino que crean proyectos de futuro, demandan de síntesis de sus extraordinarias experiencias del imaginario social. América Latina destruye a diario múltiples posiciones deterministas sin un apropiado correlato teórico.

**Ligia SÁNCHEZ TOVAR (U Carabobo, Venezuela), Lisdella JURADO (Pequiven Moron, Venezuela), Dilma Simões BRASILEIRO (U Federal de Paraiba, Brazil):**

**Aproximación a la percepción de la valoración del ocio y el tiempo libre en la vida cotidiana (Approximations to the Perception of the Valorization of Leisure and Spare Time in Everyday Life)**

Abstract in Spanish: El propósito de la investigación fue indagar sobre la percepción y valoración que tienen los trabajadores (as) del ocio y del tiempo libre. Se desarrolló una investigación de tipo cualitativa, con un grupo de 60 trabajadores (as) que laboran en un complejo petroquímico. Para la recolección de la información se recurrió a los grupos focales. Los resultados revelaron que para los trabajadores(as) resulta poco claro discernir entre lo que significa ocio y tiempo libre, quedando estos aspectos sumergidos en actividades que no garantizan la evasión, la distracción y en consecuencia la recuperación del desgaste psicofisiológico generado por el trabajo. Esto queda evidenciado en que, indistintamente del sexo, los trabajadores(as) se dedican durante su tiempo libre a actividades vinculadas con obligaciones domésticas o a aquellas que les garantizan ingresos adicionales. Existe una concepción del ocio asociada a tiempo no productivo. En algunos casos no hubo una valoración positiva del ocio. Consideran que el factor principal que limita el aprovechamiento del tiempo libre en actividades de ocio es la falta de recursos y programas asequibles a sus ingresos; es decir se asocia ocio a consumo. Se logró identificar las actividades de ocio y recreación que realizan y desearían realizar en su tiempo libre. Los resultados permiten concluir acerca de la necesidad de pensar en una educación para el ocio crítico, es decir una comprensión del significado práctico y transformador del ocio en la calidad de vida de los y las trabajadoras. - Palabras Clave: Percepción del ocio, tiempo libre, valoración del ocio.



**Marcela MUNGARAY LAGARDA (UA Baja California, Mexico):**

**Los mercados matrimoniales virtuales: mitos y expectativas de la pareja contemporánea (The Virtual Marriage Markets: Myths and Expectations of the Contemporary Couple)**

Abstract: The objective is to analyze the concept of virtual married markets, identifying the main characteristics of the supply and the demand of expectations in the search and encounter of a pair using the services of Internet. The methodology is an analysis of content of the composition of the spaces in the vestibules specialized in the pair search. The discussion is to identify the characteristics of the virtual married market, oriented under a sort perspective exploring myths and the expectations on the ideal pair.

Abstract in Spanish: El objetivo es analizar el concepto de mercados matrimoniales virtuales, identificando los principales rasgos de la oferta y la demanda de expectativas en la búsqueda y encuentro de una pareja utilizando los servicios de Internet. La metodología es un análisis de contenido de la composición de los espacios en los portales especializados en la búsqueda de pareja. La discusión es identificar los rasgos del mercado matrimonial virtual, orientados bajo una perspectiva de género explorando los mitos y las expectativas sobre la pareja ideal.

## 15.5 New Theoretical Perspectives (Roundtable)

Thursday, July 15, 10:45-12:45 at Svenska Mässan, Hall F

**Chairs:** Mikhail BALAEV (UNC-Greensboro, USA) <mbalaev@nmu.edu>

Lars Geer HAMMERSHØJ (Aarhus U, Denmark) <lgha@dpu.dk>

**Presenters:**

**Dmitry IVANOV (St Petersburg State U, Russia):**

**The Social Future: Traditional Theory versus Critical Theory**

Abstract: The conceptualization of social future is very difficult issue for traditional theory. Both structure and agency approaches can provide us only with visions of social present: extrapolation of the present mainstream structures or believe in permanent presence of universal agency forms. Critical theory developed by H. Marcuse provides us with the model of vision of the future through dialectical negation: the marginal radical values and utopian movements opposed to the present society are asocial projections of the future dominant structures and patterns of agency. Negation and utopia have enabled critical theory to reveal the direction of the modern society change. Utopia of 'Post-technological rationality' (open multidimensional society) formulated in the 1960s was extracted from radical movements: antimilitarist, feminist, ecologist, for civil rights of minorities. By the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the negative concept of post-technological rationality became affirmative discourse for postindustrial and postmodernist capitalism. The social present for Marcusean critical theory –reified society is now in the past. Our present is de-reification– virtualization of society. In a virtual reality of any kind a person deals not with a real object, but with a simulated reality of image. The economy of brands and stock market speculations and politics of media campaigns exemplify current human activities aimed at images rather than at real things. Under conditions of virtualization the dialectical negation of the present can be related to new movements which violate the order of simulations. Hackers and 'pirates' violate intellectual property rights and therefore undermine the postindustrial mode of image-production. Fundamentalists and anti-globalists violate democracy as political rights of majority and therefore undermine the postmodernist regime of image-making power. These anti-social and alter-social movements represent new utopia: struggle for authenticity against virtuality. The model of the social future could be developed as the model of transformation of the postindustrial and postmodernist society transformation through absorption of values and practices of anti-social and



alter-social movements. Traditional theory could be transformed to be more future-oriented when it would be reoriented from structures to processes and from common/everyday forms of agency to marginal/extremist ones.

**Ali A. MOQADDAS (Shiraz U, Iran):**

**A Theory of Social Class**

Abstract: This is a synthesized theory of inequality upon Morgan's theory of social structure, new-Weberian, and critical theory of inequality. Resources and schemas are divided to three categories, namely dominant, intermediate and dominated classes, and schemas are ontological, epistemological, and methodological. According to this theory, the dominant manipulators have norms or logic or ethnomethods too, but they usually propose and manipulate other schemas, and bestow the right of interpretation of law and legislation. On the other side, each class depends on its resource, and can create and manipulate the schema. Unemployed and passive individuals are considered as dependents, either on three classes or the state. Dynamics of ontological reforms leads to epistemological paradigms, as Kuhn describes. Social mobility of classes depends on either emancipator movements or achievement of new resources, especially by methodological manipulation. Those who feel the relative deprivation may stimulate the practice too, when an ideological leader mobilize them.

**Petr SMIRNOV (St Petersburg State U, Russia), Philipp SMIRNOV (St Petersburg State U, Russia):**  
**Civilization: Natural and Controlled Stages of Social Evolution**

Abstract: Some eminent sociologists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century –K.Popper, R.Nisbet, C.Tilly, I.Wallerstein—expressed doubts regarding the applicability of the concept “evolution” to the process of social changes. It was stated that processes happening in a society cannot be described and understood using the approach of strict causality. However, the current state of a modern society indicates that dignifying life of the mankind is doubtful without elaborated scheme of social evolution and universal guiding line for the control over the further society evolution. General logics of social evolution can be traced by the change of human position in a society. Describing this change with the help of the activity-value approach (it is being developed by A.O.Boronev, Y.M.Pismak and P.I.Smirnov in St-Petersburg) one can construct ideal types (models) of such evolutionary stages as wilderness, barbarism and civilization. The study of features and indicators of social evolution ideal types shows the regularity of two natural civilizations appearance: home-service civilization and market one. They appear on a different technological basis. For example, countries of home-service civilization are ancient Egypt, China, and Russia (since Moscow became the political capital). Athens, Novgorod Republic and Western countries are examples of the market civilization. The study of the market civilization leads to the conclusion that its long existence is doubtful. That is why the US’ intentions to take over the evolution process, taking market civilization type as a reference point are extremely dangerous for the mankind. Authors can propose (as discussion) an ideal type of spirit-game civilization as a long-term guiding line for the controlled social evolution. Moving in this direction, mankind could save itself and solve its main problems, in particular, give the opportunity for every human being to realize himself in the environment.

**Vladimir IGNATYEV (Novosibirsk State Technical University, Russia):**

**The Virtual Social Action: Social World System Collapse or New Social Order?**

Abstract: Contemporary social world satiation of informational streams and symbolic artefacts causes new social order base—‘informational resonance’. The elemental part of new system is a virtual social interaction. What’s the source of its revelation? The growing excess of information causes anomia –the role behavior excess. Anomia is growing on condition of other actor’s resource control. Information organized as a resource, ready for realization of a goal achievement function permits actor not to be



guided by others, but by self-created normative order. Z. Bauman calls it individualized society, 'liquid modernity,' S. Lash delegates replacement of norms by individual valuable (society is a 'non-system'). The actor's practice is caused individually, not socially on condition of 'informational resonance'. Resource—information—stays caused by society. That's why the actor's action is still socially. But social control and social community's formation shifts to the virtual space—imaginary, secondary—'parallel' social world. In addition to that informational resources continue arising in the sphere of the real social practice. That is why social reality doubles—become practical and virtual at the same time. The phenomenon of the 'virtual' in society is human's ability to creativity—self-creation of material and non-real (symbolic) artifacts. The growth of individual creativity in comparison with the group one is a coming of a new age of virtual social reality. The phenomenon of the virtual in society is rooted in irreducibility of realities to each other. Polynomia' replaces anomia, when the absence (difficulty) of choice of norms or stable social pattern guidelines is replaced by eclecticism of normative behavior, 'on-situation' action. It causes the need of intensification of the role of such integrators as tolerance and trust.

Distributed Paper:

**Tamara ADAMYANTS (Institute of Sociology RAS, Russia):**

**About New Opportunities for Social Knowledge and Social Practice**

Abstract: The work in new paradigms elaborated by Russian scientist Tamara Dridze offers the possibility of a more comprehensive understanding of the interactive process which are going between individual actor and his/her natural, social and cultural environment and finding the socially oriented proposals in different spheres of social practice. Eco-anthropocentric paradigm places primary emphasis not on groups but on individual human actors. The triad "individual actor –environment—interaction between them" instead of the triad "group (class) —society—social relations" is in the focus of attention of the scholars sharing this paradigm. Not only results of public practices but also intentions (which are understood as resultant force of motives and goals of dialogue and interaction of people) are of theoretical significance. Semio-socio-psychology elaborated within the framework of eco-anthropocentric paradigm offers the possibility of a more comprehensive understanding of the process of communication. It brings insight to how "key logic elements" of text-messages are processed by human consciousness. Original tool of this paradigm the method of intentions-oriented analysis allows to differentiate, first, an audience on quality of understanding of author's intentions (so-called socio-mental groups) and, second, to recommend ways of development of communicative skills of the person.

## **15.6 Research and Organization in Fields of Power (Roundtable)**

Thursday, July 15, 10:45-12:45 at Svenska Mässan, Hall F

Chair: Thomas Babila SAMA (U Jyväskylä, Finland) <thomas.sama@jyu.fi>

Presenters:

**Thomas Babila SAMA (U Jyväskylä, Finland):**

**Conceptualizing Non-Governmental Organizations: Still Searching for Conceptual Clarity**

Abstract: This is a qualitative study which argues that there is a lack of conceptual clarity of the concept of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The study was designed to assess the current concept of NGOs by reviewing some of the conceptualizations of NGOs namely Private Voluntary Organization (PVO), Non-Profit Organization (NPO) and the Third Sector. The data for this study was collected from





books, Internet websites, Journal Articles and published research relating to NGOs. On the other hand, the data was analyzed qualitatively through content analysis. The findings revealed that first, in spite of the increasing importance of NGOs as partners in the development of both Northern and Southern countries, there is still a lack of conceptual clarity about the diversity of NGOs because academic research has not systematically followed and conceptualized NGOs in a manner that differentiates their various types, functions, networks, rationalities and the complex interactions within themselves and with other actors working in the same field. Second, the study found that the current literature is full of generalizations about NGOs as if all NGOs were the same or similar. Third, the study found that the literature that is often used to conceptualize NGOs is based on assumptions about the differences between the public and the private sector, rather than what the NGOs really are. The study concluded that it is not trying to encourage scholars working in the field of NGOs to change the concepts which they are currently using, but instead, what the study does is that it tries to make them more aware of the potential problems related to the concepts they are currently using, and the hidden implications behind them.

**Barbara JANIK (U Adam Mickiewicz, Poland):**

**Between Immigrant and Citizen: About Social Movements in Spain**

Abstract: In my paper I will focus on describing the concept of "nation," "immigrant" and "citizen," paying attention primarily on the excluding function. Then I will discuss the issue of immigrants in Spain, as a group aiming to achieve equal rights. Quantitative data indicate that many immigrants (though not all) living in the area of Spain, its future is linked with that country. Gradually it comes to transformation, whereby individuals arriving in the country for a specified period of time, choose it as place of residence, without a desire to return to their country of origin. Collective identities are changing. Contrary to popular opinion, did not come to Spain only for a short period of time. Because of its origins they are a double excluded, institutional (lack of equal access to employment and education) and social. Images of "nation," "immigrant" and "citizen" are (through socialization) deeply rooted among the citizens of Spain, which is one of the causes of exclusion and to prevent people of different origin, to give them equal rights. Immigrants, fighting for recognition as 'the new current,' having the same rights as Spaniards, are important social actors, influencing public opinion and attitudes of citizens. This paper also aims to show the possible solutions, that are struggling immigrants.

**Mary Luz SANDOVAL (U Caldas, Colombia):**

**Colombian Sociology in a Context of Conflict, Violence and Terror**

Abstract: This paper points to the gap between contemporary practical problems of sociology and the conditions of cumulative sociological knowledge in a violent social and political environment, in the case such as the Colombian society, immersed in an internal armed conflict for more than fifty years. Another intention of this paper is to underline that some sociological concepts have been overwhelmed by a phenomenon called chronic violence, one which accompanies this conflict and implies the use of an extreme violence, including terror. At the same time; however, indicating that it is necessary to resort to creative ways to use the sociological theory in order to reach a wider range of interpretation of the Colombian conflict. In addition, the paper tries to show, in very general terms, some problems related to the fragmentation of the social research on the topic of conflict.

## **15.7 New Approaches to Science and Technology (Roundtable)**

**Thursday, July 15, 10:45-12:45 at Svenska Mässan, Hall F**

**Chair:** Gerardo del Cerro (Cooper Union/MIT, USA) <gdclcerro@gmail.com>

**Presenters:**

**Daniel BARBEN (Arizona State U, USA):**

**Anticipatory Governance of 'Future Technologies': Challenges, Opportunities, and Limits**

**Abstract:** New and emerging fields of science and technology (S&T) pose manifold challenges, both to the actors dealing with S&T in predominantly practical ways and to those mostly concerned with analyzing the configuration of S&T in society. Key questions are, among others: What is the particular new quality of an emerging field of S&T; and does this field contribute to key technologies of the future? With which important social, political, legal, and ethical issues is an emerging field of S&T associated; and do these issues require new institutional and individual responses? How shall we (as practitioners and/or analysts) best engage with the uncertainties, indeterminacies, and ambiguities that characterize an emerging field of S&T? First, I will outline some of the fundamental challenges associated with emerging technologies, suggesting that approaches to anticipatory governance of S&T might help prepare for coping with issues that are currently already known or might arise in the future. Second, I will show how emerging technologies have become subject to processes of governance at multiple levels concerning innovation, risk and security, intellectual property, ethics, and public acceptance. I will hereby highlight those elements that can be characterized as contributing to anticipatory governance. Third, I will present approaches to technology assessment (TA) that are dedicated to anticipatorily govern innovation—i.e. attempts that pursue opportunities provided by recent policy shifts particularly in the fields of biotechnology/genomics and nanotechnology. Fourth, I will discuss limits inherent in such approaches (e.g., Constructive TA, Real-Time TA) in light of the broader societal and global challenges pertaining to the generation, regulation, and enculturation of emerging and future S&T.

**Catarina DELAUNAY (CESNova, Portugal):**

**The Beginning of Life at the Laboratory:**

**The Challenges of a Technological Future for Human Reproduction**

**Abstract:** This paper analyzes the underlying principles and social consequences of the increasing detachment between human reproduction and sexuality via the process of technological intervention in the biological body, with a focus on current debates in Portugal. With biomedical techno-sciences, conception has become artificial (in vivo or in vitro fertilization) and independent of the coital activity. The risks and uncertainties concerning the development of Science and Technique in the biomedical field applied to reproduction present important challenges and bring forth critical questions to future generations and to humanity as a whole. For example, gametes donation (heterologous assisted reproduction) implies fulfilling some ethical principles such as informed consent, anonymity and gratuitous involvement; other possible problems include the potential development of eugenic aspirations, dilemmas arising from the commercialization of gametes, embryos and fetus or surrogate motherhood, from reproductive cloning or embryonic stem-cell research techniques. In this framework, new entities appear on the scene like gametes donors, cryo-preserved embryos or rented wombs that demand new laws and governmental regulation. Therefore, it is essential to study which values the techno-sciences are actually redefining, the range of social choices towards these values and the consequences these choices have—in terms of parenthood rights and family ties, for example. In this context, the paper will reflect upon these new values and will question whether they are compatible or not with democratic principles such as autonomy, human dignity or equal rights. I will approach this problem both theoretically, using tools from the Sociology of Science and of Medicine, through data analysis (such as reports from ethical committees, legislation and media), and through focused interviews to relevant actors such as doctors, infertile couples and experts.



**Anda ADAMSONE-FISKOVICA (Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia):**

**What Public Understanding of Science-in-Particular Can Tell Us about the Public Perception of Science-in-General?**

**Abstract:** The paper aims to identify and analyze selected elements of the public understanding of science-in-general based on two cases of topical science-related matters, namely, climate change and biomedicine (xeno-transplantation). The two realms—environment and medicine—represent two domains that are easier grasped by laymen since these can be directly associated with and related to one's own existing or assumed experience. The analysis is based on two national thematic focus group discussions carried out in Latvia in 2008-09. The notions of social accountability, decision-making power and control, stakeholder involvement, individual and public good are just a few uniting categories in the laymen's discourse. Both cases also strongly touch upon the fundamental question of the human-nature relations that are highly illustrative of the broader social contextualisation of the complex issues involving science. The common reasoning structures that transcend the specific topic irrespective of the particular science-related matter is telling not only of the lay attitudes towards a narrowly defined question which is often framed in a technical manner but also of the more far-reaching reflections on the range of side-issues seen relevant by the public. The analysis reveals the conditionality and situatedness of human judgement as well as a marked cultural embeddedness of the key notions employed in the debate.

Distributed Paper:

**Martin HULTMAN (Linköping U, Sweden):**

**Hydrogen Economy: An Ecologically Modern Utopia**

**Abstract:** Since late 1980's it is regarded by many researchers that an ecological modern discourse more and more has come to dominate the politics of environment in terms of policy, technology and metaphors. I have researched on the construction of fuel cells and hydrogen as a technology for energy transformation. By following these objects from 1978-2006 I can describe changes in energy politics in Sweden. My empirical data is glocal in the sense that I analyze both international reports as national investigations, because both are important in how my case changes over time and space. My case is at an intersection of energy politics, renewables, transport politics and environmental politics. This paper will focus on how a Hydrogen Economy became a popular vision for politicians as George W. Bush and Romano Prodi as, energy companies as Shell as well as environmental organizations as World Watch Institute. Using the theory of ecological modernization together with an analysis inspired by Utopian studies this paper will try to understand the environmental future created in the beginning of a new millennium in which hydrogen and fuel cells were said to create a bright future.

## **15.8 Nano Futures (Roundtable)**

**Thursday, July 15, 10:45-12:45 at Svenska Mässan, Hall F**

**Chair:** Jennifer ROGERS (UCSB, USA) <jenrogers@cns.ucsb.edu>

**Presenters:**

**Sébastien RICHARD (U Montreal, Canada):**

**The Epistemological Dimension of the Nanoworld:**

**A Critical Investigation into the Production of Knowledge in Nanotechnologies**

**Abstract:** From a socio-anthropological perspective, we aim to demonstrate in this presentation the mechanisms which construct the social perception of nanotechnologies, from the laboratory to the popularization publications. We will argue that the *epistemological* dimension of nanotechnologies is

grounded on a *continuum* between three components (manipulation of artifacts, technical representations and an emphasized popularization), all tied by a *legitimization* relation. Thus, we will see that the manipulation of artifacts with instruments such as the Scanning Tunneling Microscope (STM) legitimate, by determining the sample, a need for images and representations. Then, we will suggest that in order to diffuse publicly these images, the representations need to be simplified. This need of clarification makes the representation more like a presentation of results, a glass case for scientific activity which serves to emphasis of the nanotechnologies promises. Finally, we shall consider that the popular demand for more (or less) nanotechnologies has a direct effect on scientific work itself, where some trends seem to shape the choice of a work field. Based on a set of fifteen interviews and a six month field work in two nanomaterial research groups in Montreal, and following the discourse analysis of several scientific popularization articles, this communication aims to demonstrate the lack consideration of the legitimization mechanisms which ultimately contribute to create a *technical area*, and to point the *disappearance* of the epistemological dimension. In the end, we suggest a reinvestment, by public sociology, of this epistemological dimension to create help build future standards of comprehension of nanotechnologies.

**Jennifer ROGERS (UCSB, USA), Barbara HERR HARTHORN (UCSB, USA), Christine SHEARER (UCSB, USA):**

**Visions of Nanotech Futures: A Feminist Analysis of Nanotechnology Deliberative Workshops**

Abstract: This paper explores the relationship between gender and visions of utopian and dystopian nanotechnology futures in deliberative settings designed to enhance public participation in science and technology research and development. The work builds on studies that show that gender and other social locations of participants influence their perception of technological risk. This paper draws on comparative mixed- and same-sex dialogues from six nanotechnology deliberative workshops held in the US in 2009 on nanotech health and human enhancement applications and nanotech energy and environment applications. This paper builds on comparative international deliberation research in 2007 at the Center for Nanotechnology in Society at UCSB that revealed concern by participants in the US and UK about equal access to benefits of nanotechnology and potentials for mismanagement/misuse of new technologies; however, participants generally preferred to focus on benefits rather than risks of nanotechnologies. This paper explores the gendering (and racing) of constructions of technologically altered futures. The authors use a feminist intersectional approach that considers the implications of important social locations (including race, class, gender, and age) as well as personal histories in women's and men's constructed understandings of emerging technologies. Themes to be explored include perceived benefit and risk, trust in governments and corporations, safe regulation, fairness and equity, and, more broadly, the meaning of deliberative participation.

**Rui VIEIRA CRUZ (U Minho, Portugal), Emília RODRIGUES (U Minho, Portugal):**

**Nanotechnology and the Visions of Future**

Abstract: The public perception of nanotechnology is being constructed making use not only of old narratives, such as nautilus entering human bloodstream (Nerlich, 2005), but also of new ones such as those which anticipate the existence of nanobots (Drexler, 1990; Crichton, 2006), thus creating a very distended vision of future. It is a fact that culture is constructing new possibilities for nanotechnology in movies, TV shows, videogames, papers, books, etc. That is why it is being assumed that nanotechnologies are building new imaginaries and new forms of society. In parallel it is also presupposed that it is bringing new ethical issues and risks which need to be deconstructed. This presentation seeks to explore the range of effects bring about by nanotechnology as regards social, economical and cultural futures and presents some insights concerning the type of changes to take in regarding modes of governance and regulation of temporal horizons. It is grounded on sociology of



science as well as on social studies of science but it is also sustained by several theoretical bodies which have been dealing with cultural changes in emerging networks of power which go behind nation-state action. It is believed that nanotechnology will become incorporated in all parts of society, including new forms of operating and dealing with machines and new forms of human social interaction. But all these developments bring about important ethical and legal issues which, in turn, require new types of socio-political solutions in several spheres of life (cultural, educational and economic) and interventions that are thus far insufficiently developed, legitimized and justified. We sustain that nanotechnology challenges the concept of culture, understood in a wide sense and integrating the notion of future as well as the concept and the experience of risk, insofar as it basically refers to (as yet) unknown processes of change occurring in the present time with consequences in a near future for individual experiences. From a macro point of view, the presentation shows the tendencies regarding the impact on democratic processes, citizenship and patterns of interaction. From a more micro standpoint, we refer to the specific uses of nanotechnological developments and their implications on ways of life and forms of thinking and representing the future, focusing on two groups—the general public and scientists. Following a methodological path which integrates quantitative data as well as the use of interviews, case analysis, Delphi techniques and focus groups, the paper aims at building up a body of knowledge to more informed policies directed at citizens, policymakers and governments on spheres such as ethics and nanotechnological training.

## 15.9 Subject Formations and Digital Culture (Roundtable)

Thursday, July 15, 10:45-12:45 at Svenska Mässan, Hall F

**Chair:** Christine Schachtner (U Klagenfurt, Austria) <Christine.Schachtner@uni-klu.ac.at>

**Presenters:**

**Nicole DULLER (U Klagenfurt, Austria): Project Presentation I**

**Katja OŠLJAK (U Klagenfurt, Austria): Project Presentation II**

**Katja LANGELAND (U Klagenfurt, Austria): Project Presentation III**

**Christina SCHACHTNER (U Klagenfurt, Austria): Project Presentation IV**

**Abstract:** Our research project explores subject formations of teenagers and young adults between the age of 15 and 30 in online communities. They are the very first generation that grows up in the era of digital media. The amount of online users amongst this group is above average. Therefore these “digital natives” can be regarded as significant indicators not only for contemporary but also for future society and culture. In the light of the significance that cross-border communication holds for communicative virtual spaces, we include networks into our analysis that originated in different geographical regions and operate across cultural borders. Regarding the German-speaking sphere, we consider online platforms such as *Facebook*, *StudiVZ*, *Netlog*, *Knuddels*, and the *SWR-Kindernetz* (children’s network). On an international level we study English-speaking online networks such as *Mideast Youth*, *TakingITGlobal* and *Global Modules*. On all of these platforms topics like religion, values, politics, participation, gender, relationship and “new” forms of playing are investigated. Our research question focuses on how online actors constitute themselves by negotiating these aforementioned topics. During the session of the “Round Table” there will be four contributions regarding particular aspects of our research project. First, we would like to introduce the general idea of the project as well as its research focus. The next input will explicate our methodological approach towards virtual/online communication spaces. Last but not least, we would like to present some of our preliminary findings regarding the subject formations of online actors.



**Theresa SAUTER (Queensland UT, Australia):**

**From Techniques of the Self to the Technological Self: Social Networking Sites as Laboratories for Constructing an 'Authentic' Persona**

Abstract: This paper explores the ways in which social networking sites (SNSs) act as forums within which modern subjects invent and manage themselves. The paper seeks to move beyond observations of recent work on SNS-use and identity construction, which frequently depict the type of identity work performed on SNSs as narcissistic or superficial (e.g. Buffardi and Campbell, 2008; Daalsgard, 2008; Hills, 2009; Rosen, 2007). Rather, it is argued that through techniques of inscribing the self, SNS users are able to construct an 'authentic' understanding of who they are. In his later work, Michel Foucault addresses technologies of the self as means for members of society to define and care for themselves "so as to transform themselves in order to attain a certain state of happiness, purity, wisdom, perfection, or immortality" (1988, p. 18). This paper applies Foucault's notion of caring for the self to SNSs, arguing that the use of self-writing on SNSs represents a modern form of caring for the self and the process of embarking on a quest for self-fulfilment and authenticity. Significantly, this modern form of self-writing is open to a mass public. Hence, significant continuities and discontinuities between ancient forms of self-writing, which are addressed by Foucault, and self-writing in the realm of SNSs become apparent. These can provide pertinent insights for sociologists studying the ways in which modern individuals understand and construct their subjectivity.

## **15.10 Open Roundtable on Media Research (Roundtable)**

**Thursday, July 15, 10:45-12:45 at Svenska Mässan, Hall F**

**Chair:** Christiana FREITAS ((U Brasilia, Brazil) <freitas.christiana@gmail.com>

**Presenters:**

**Tomohisa HIRATA (Kyoto U, Japan):**

**Comparative Research on Internet Cafés in East and Southeast Asian Countries: Their Current Situation and Future**

Abstract: This paper aims to clarify the relationships between the Internet and urban life in Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, and the Philippines via empirical research on Internet cafés. The first reason why this paper focuses on Internet cafés is that they reflect different Internet cultures and images of the urban area in each Asian country. The second reason is that they not only play an important role to provide the Internet infrastructure for low income groups but also show diverse ways of Internet usage. That is to say, especially in Asian countries, Internet cafés can be a significant basis of the comparative sociological study of the relationships between the Internet and urban life. While introducing the number of Internet cafés and their locations in each Asian country, firstly I will point out the close relationships among Internet cafés, characteristics of their users and regions. Secondly, by analyzing interviews at Internet cafés I will examine the differences of business forms and strategies, images and usages of them. Finally I will explore cultural backgrounds of these differences and discuss the relationships in focus, in their contemporary and prospective forms.

**Christiana FREITAS (U Brasilia, Brazil), Corinto MEFFE (U Brasilia, Brazil):**

**Social, Political and Economic Implications of Free Public Software Production in Brazil**

Abstract: The main goal of this paper is to present the results of a research concerning the implications of the development and dissemination of free public software in Brazil. The research was conducted based on the actor-network theoretical principles (Callon, 1987). Qualitative and quantitative methods of the Social Network Analysis (Wasserman & Faust, 1994) were applied to obtain the results. The focus



of the research was to analyze the social production, use and dissemination of free public software in a specific virtual environment developed specifically for that purpose: the Portal of the Brazilian Public Software. The network of this virtual space had, in 2009, approximately 50,000 users constituted by a variety of social actors with different goals such as establishing business networks or building a network of shared knowledge production. The Brazilian Public Software represents a new concept. It is a free and public good for general use produced collectively in an open virtual space available for the entire society. This software is directed not only to social actors interested in establishing economic and commercial relations but also to the community in a wide-ranging way. Not only producers of software participate but also users with other interests. Other social actors interested in the initiative include entrepreneurs, scientists, researchers, government agents, representatives of social movements and citizens in general. It is a decentralized and distributive network (Freitas & Meffe, 2008) that fosters the dialogue among several social spheres. The main hypothesis of the research was confirmed. The network of the Portal enables income generation and employment by stimulating the development of social ties that promote relations between those who look for technological artifacts or services and those who supply them. In other words, the Public Software Portal fosters shared knowledge economy since demands and supplies are gathered in a same collaborative virtual environment. It is then established a complex system of economic, political and social relations that involves various spheres of society. Free public software, in this context, is not only a product, but also an artifact that provides through its creators possibilities of new forms of production. Actors in this scenario are producers and consumers simultaneously. The research findings revealed that the free public software is an important initiative that can reduce social and economic inequalities. The model presented has already been implemented in Paraguay and Uruguay, indicating that it is an interesting path for economic growth in South America. The results of the research provide important analytical elements for the development of theories regarding the comprehension of the social construction of technological innovations and their role in contemporary societies.

**Karunamay SUBUDDHI (IIT, India):**

**e-Identity and Digital Network: Mediating Practices of Regulation (of Access and Use)**

Abstract: The development of technological and cultural space as autonomous fields or capital and the participation in Internet have enabled emergence of a new mode of representation of the individual and collective identities. ICTs have increasingly generated alternative sites and counter-geographies for contacts between citizens and representative organizations, proliferating multiplicity of discourses and identities. The paper examines some of the challenges that emerge through the mediation of Internet use and access, and the current regulatory and surveillance practices and the associated socio-legal issues involving e-identity in particular context. The development of the networks and the rules and resources and the so-called governance oriented functioning such as e-democracy, e-governance and e-commerce have produced two opposite effects of online functioning. With greater openness and transparency democratic potentials are enhanced no doubt but the opposite effects provide the governments, citizens and others organizations more power to monitor its citizens and increase privacy and personal infringements of citizens resulting the retrogression of democracy. In this paper I focus on this opposite effects of e-regulation or e-governance and have attempted to search for a balance between centralization and decentralization of information in e-regulative process.

**Kenichi ITO (Gunma U, Japan):**

**The Mobile Internet Use in Japan: Cyber-bullying through Mobile Phones**

Abstract: Cyber-bullying is one of the most remarkable problems of digital age. In this paper I want to describe current trends of cyber-bullying among Japanese schoolchildren based on the survey our research team exercised on 2008-09 in Gunma and Saitama prefecture. The outstanding



property of Japanese cyber-bullying is that it is exercised not through PCs but through mobile phones. In Japan it is quite common among teenagers that they use the Internet through their mobile phones, and at the same time, they are exposed to various kinds of net business ads and seduced to spend their time and money for SNSs or on-line games. Accessed not from PCs in their living room but from their mobile phones in their own rooms or on the streets, digital troubles including cyber-bullying, defaming or incitement to some other illegal activities are very difficult to find out for the teachers or the parents in Japan. I want to describe what Japanese teachers or parents suffer from and what Japanese schools or citizens do in order to protect the schoolchildren from these cyber troubles.

**Anatoli VROCHARIDOU (U Aegean, Greece), Ilias EFTHYMIOU (U Aegean, Greece):**

**Computer Mediated Communication for Social and Academic Purposes:**

**Profiles of Use and University Students' Gratifications**

Abstract: The present study approaches the Internet as a social space, where university students make use of computer mediated communication (CMC) applications, i.e. e-mail, instant messaging and social network sites, in order to satisfy social and academic needs. We focus on university students, since these not only represent one of the most avid groups of CMC users, but also because they are expected to carry their perceptions of media with them into the workplace and their social life. In order to investigate this issue, we conducted an empirical research using, as a target group, a sample of students from a specific Greek University. Grounded in the "uses and gratifications" perspective, we investigated the various profiles of CMC use by students along with (a) the students' perceptions about social and academic usefulness of CMC applications, (b) the extent up to which these perceptions are correlated with students' prior experience with the use of CMC applications, and (c) how both of these factors can predict the frequency of present use of CMC for social or academic purposes respectively. The results support the implementation of further academic policies that will promote the effective use of CMC in Higher Education.

## **15.11 Open Roundtable on Culture Research (Roundtable)**

**Thursday, July 15, 10:45-12:45 at Svenska Mässan, Hall F**

**Chair:** Belinda ROBNETT (UC Irvine, USA) <brobnett@uci.edu>

**Presenters:**

**Fernando DOMÍNGUEZ RUBIO (Open U, UK):**

**Media Art and the Future of Cultural Objects in a Digital Age**

Abstract: The emergence of media-art, that is, art which depends on electronic equipment for its display and storage, is acknowledged as one of the most significant developments in contemporary art. Since the appearance of film and video art in the late 1960s, the increasing engagement of artists with different media technologies, like audio, computers or the Internet, has resulted in a host of new art forms, as audio-installations, digital-art or Internet-art. Unlike traditional cultural objects—like books, paintings or sculptures—which can be preserved for decades or even centuries, the rapid obsolescence of media technologies subjects media-based cultural objects to an endless cycle of 'cultural refreshing' whereby these objects have to be continually updated from 'old' media (e.g. 5¼ inch floppy, VHS, film) to 'new' storage formats (e.g. DVDs) to prevent them from becoming irretrievable or lost. This paper will analyze media-art as one of the key fields illuminating the unprecedented challenges that cultural objects face in a digital age. Specifically it will address the following questions: What are the socio-material networks required to keep up with this endless technological cycle of cultural refreshing? What are the criteria for establishing which cultural objects are preserved and which ones are left to degrade?





Who are the key individual and institutional actors involved in these decisions? What are the media-technologies required to assure the future reproducibility and authenticity of these cultural objects? What peculiar version of our contemporary cultural legacy are these technological processes articulating?

**Sergey A. KUZIN (Novosibirsk State Technical U, Russia):**

**The 'Online World' as a Virtual Social Space**

Abstract: The rapid development of the phenomenon of virtualization of social relations leads to the formation of a special type of space relationships as part of the social space. This is primarily due to the global Internet. Forming relationships between individuals and social groups is a departure from traditional forms in nature. The Internet has become a standard channel of social communication, by means of which the main types of interactions; running remote work; conducted various forms of training and retraining; function media implements the transfer of funds and a vast number of trading transactions carried out document, etc. The Internet is a virtual land space, for example, an online game with virtual characters, or community in which participants, using the so-called "virtual" can play multiple social roles as well as specialized resources targeted at the creation of virtual marriage of Internet users, simulators reproducing the features of the social environment ("virtual worlds"). As the traditional social space, Internet space is structured and differentiated, because there are different social groups, which are the carriers of the dominant interests, interact through formal and informal connections and selling various kinds of joint activities. Internet space is divided, and has a lot of planes, each of which is characterized by a certain type of relationship and has its own logic, and its elements are connected in a chaotic and contradictory unity. In the Internet space, there are sites with relatively high social interaction and development of communications, which affect other, less than the reference and status community. Dynamics of the Internet space is the result of a conflict of interest, which depends on both qualitative and quantitative composition of social groups, and correction of their relationships and joint activities in the common domain. The socio-cultural structure of modern society is beginning to acquire the features that are not recorded in prior periods. We have selected the most typical object (sample) "online world" — is a project of the company Linden Lab "Second Life." Most of the traditional social practices gradually move from the real world "Second Life." And still, not only the content of such practices, but also the form in which they occur and occur in reality. Proof is the fact that virtually all types of interactions in the "Second Life" have a three-dimensional graphic embodiment of the characteristics of the physical environment, which accompanies these interactions in reality. Nevertheless, we can confidently assert that the relations in this online world are social, even if copied from the real, i.e. "is as much social, as in real life."

**Belinda ROBNETT (UC Irvine, USA), Cynthia FELICIANO (UC Irvine, USA):**

**Gendered Racial Group Positions among Minority Internet Daters**

Abstract: Limited research addresses African American, Latino, and Asian American exclusion or inclusion of minority groups or whites as dates. Employing a sample of 6,000 US Internet dating profiles our results 1) support assimilation theory as Asians', and Latinos' patterns of racial exclusion are similar to those of whites; but, 2) depart from assimilation theory's structural accounts of group's racial positions because high income East Indians and Middle Easterners are highly excluded as dates; 3) find blacks more exclusionary of whites than are Asians and Latinos, but more open to dating whites than whites are to dating them; and, 4) show gender is an important factor in racial group position and incorporation as Asian male and black female daters are more highly excluded than their opposite-sex counterparts.

**Maria KOPP (Goteborg U, Sweden) and Bilyana MARTINOVSKI (Goteborg U, Sweden):**



### Swedish Patriarchic Communication Patterns

Abstract: Although there are many forms of organization and distribution of power and trust, such as kingdoms, democracies, oligarchies, tyrannies, etc. they all have one common feature: they are patriarchies (Erturk, 2009). Western democracies and kingdoms are developed patriarchies. Sweden is known as developed egalitarian society but the patriarchic order is still in tact. This order has been kept for centuries and it is therefore hard to imagine another. As a first step towards the development of an understanding of a non-patriarchic order we study how communication maintains the patriarchic order. For the purpose, we do discourse analysis of group-decision occasions within Swedish institutions. We find that both women's and men's communicative patterns contribute to the long lasting stance of this order and suggest that an interruption of such communicative habits takes us one step away from patriarchy.

Distributed Paper:

**Galit WELLNER (Bar Ilan U, Israel):**

#### **The Rhizomatic Structure of Next-generation TV**

Abstract: While television occupied the prime time of modern technology, lately it starts changing with the introduction of new technologies, such as Internet-TV. As TV and remote control are closely related, many changes in TV are likely to affect the remote control. Some of these changes, like the new ways of video consumption (e.g. via the Internet), put a question mark on the future role of the remote control as a central piece of the everyday experience of TV watching. But the remote control remains within our everydayness in other forms—as garage opener, air conditioning control unit, and more. It further developed with body-reading techniques into a non-existing physical entity, yet present by the impacts it creates when activating technological artifacts. The paper analyzes the new forms of television and remote control with the analytical tools of Deleuze and Guattari. These include the rhizome, that enables us to think of the remote control in multi dimensions, exceeding the television and the living room experience; desire, to explain the motivation and mechanism of embracing new usages of remote control, not based on lack but rather on a positive sentiment of curiosity; and human machine, constructing television viewers no longer as consumers or users, nor even subjects, but intrinsic component pieces of a larger machine. The new deployment of Deleuze and Guattari's tools will enable better understanding of the new forms of television and remote control in a future-looking non-dystopian way.

## 16. Technological Futures

Joint Session of RC07 Futures Research and RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology

**Thursday, July 15, 15:30-17:30 at Svenska Mässan, Hall G1**

**Chair:** Gerardo del Cerro (Cooper Union/MIT, USA) <gdelcerro@gmail.com>

**Presenters:**

**Daphne ESQUIVEL SADA (U Montréal, Canada):**

#### **Synthetic Biology or the Route Towards the Engineering of Life: Which Socio-cultural Issues on the Move?**

Abstract: Similarly to the nanotechnology field, synthetic biology (SB) stems from a technological convergence, and carry, as the former, great expectations for techno-scientific development. Rooted on an interdisciplinary effort, the domain of SB gathers heterogeneous techno-scientific approaches and projects: the quest of (proto-) extraterrestrial life, the design of the living (bioengineering) for



bioeconomy industries (energy, biomedicine, environment), the construction of proto-cell and minimal genome organisms, and the creation of novel forms of life (for instance, through new nucleic acids). In the present communication, from a socio-cultural perspective grounded particularly on *Science studies* literature, we aim to contribute to a theoretical disentangling of issues raised by SB. We will draw a general portrait of this techno-scientific field, highlighting its specificities: notably the standardisation chain of “biological parts” (biobricks), the “open source” logic, and the international *Genetically Engineered Machine Competition* (iGEM) used as teaching and recruitment tool. We will bring to light the transformations of the scientific ethos that so follows. In order to better apprehend to what extent SB configures a new techno-scientific framework, its epistemological foundations shall be taken into account as well. Accordingly, we will examine its engineering spirit, which is intimately tied to nano-level technologies and constitutes one of the cornerstones of SB, making it swerve from ancient ideas of “creating life” in labs, since its purpose appears to be rather the design of life than its creation. Finally, we will suggest that the reversal of living/non-living and nature/artificial distinctions counts for some of the majors SB’s sociological stakes.

**Cornelius SCHUBERT (TU Berlin, Germany):**

**Epistemic Technologies in the Wild**

Abstract: Epistemic technologies, such as computer simulations, have long since left the laboratories of science and are now at work in multiple applied fields. I focus on computer simulations that are used to forecast social dynamics in economic and political fields, e.g. by think tanks, and how the calculated models (in a critical appreciation of performativity) impact the decision making processes in the fields. My main concern will be that “simulations in the wild” pose an interesting case for testing social theories of change, since most sociological reasoning draws heavily on past events, but relatively little on the actors’ conceptions of the future. I will address this issue by linking phenomenological and pragmatist concepts of epistemic practices and technologies. Using the Thomas theorem as a starting point, I will sketch out some theoretical assumptions on how human and non-human conceptualizations of the future are fused in the “definition of the situation,” and how these definitions relate to specific logics in the fields or to the history of past decisions. I propose a qualitative comparative method to understand how quantitative mathematical models perform in different fields, to analyze the epistemic practices of actors in different contexts and to see if mathematical models of social dynamics lead to further “artificialisations” of technicized societies.

**Michele ROBITAILLE (U Montreal/U Marc Bloch, Canada):**

**Self-Determination and Optimization of Individual Capacities: Towards a Brand New Self-Made Body?**

Abstract: Scientific members of the World Transhumanist Association advocate for a radical self-optimization of the body via NBIC technologies (prosthetics, nanotechnology, genetic engineering, etc.) to propel us into a post-human era. This vision of human enhancement is based on a conception of the body that likens it to a computer, one that should be “reprogrammed” to increase the effectiveness of its every component (organs, cells, neurons, senses, DNA, etc.). Expressing strong techno-prophetic views, the transhumanist vision attracts many followers from various scientific and cultural arenas. Therefore, this vision offers us a privileged area to study scientists’ imagination and views of the human body. To better understand the unforeseen representations of the body (and of the body-machine relationship that accompanies it), we analyzed the discourse held by members of the World Transhumanist Association. In this presentation, we will show that this ideology is highly coherent since it is defensible in many ways: firstly, by way of a specific representation of the body—informational, obsolete and technologically perfectible—and secondly, by a singular interpretation of socially shared values (particularly the self-determination value). Since this agenda’s ideological premises resonate



through contemporary culture, social acceptance of their model is increasing, and thus opens the way to the institutionalization of new norms and biomedical practices.

**Michael STRASSNIG (U Vienna, Austria), Ulrike FELT (U Vienna, Austria), Simone SCHUMANN (U Vienna, Austria), Claudia SCHWARZ (U Vienna, Austria):**

**Technologies of Imagination: Rethinking Spaces for Negotiating Nanofutures**

Abstract: Over recent years, nanotechnologies have not only provided a space where techno-scientific futures were imagined and (con)tested. They also became a “societal laboratory” where experimentation on how societies could participate in shaping such nanofutures took place. A common “laboratory condition” is that citizens are seen in need of “proper” information before being able to form a position. Yet, under everyday circumstances citizens do not necessarily acquire broad scientific knowledge before developing a position. While this is often seen as problematic and in need to be counteracted, it is essential to understand this as a social phenomenon. To address how, and based upon what resources, citizens position themselves towards nanotechnologies is thus at the core of this paper. In a current project we seek to develop a deeper understanding of how people approach nanotechnologies. To do so, we created a game-like setting in which citizens could work their way through different nanotechnology related issues. This setting allows for participation in rather structured exchanges without performing “the need” to be informed before building a position. To analyze the processes in this setting, we introduce “technologies of imagination” as a concept in two ways: On the one hand, we observe citizens’ “technologies of imagination,” i.e. how they build their visions of nanotechnologies. On the other hand, it serves to reflect our methodological setting. By addressing these two levels of “technologies of imagination,” we will finally ask what public role social science may take on in innovation politics and what spaces for negotiation could be more responsive to public imaginations of technological futures.

**Eliana HERRERA VEGA (U Ottawa, Canada):**

**What is Left for Humans in a Technologically-made Life? Relevance of Luhmann's Theory of Social Systems**

Abstract: Technological advancement has dramatically changed the praxis of agency. Nowadays, human agents share the phenomenological ground with a variety of social systems, gadgets, cyborgs and human extensions, which modify the conditions of freedom and ethical responsibility. Classical ethical approaches are besieged by the material development of society, as the place of subjectivity is no longer restricted to the human individual. This paper addresses: What is the remaining space for humans within a technologically made society? And how could ethical boundaries be included within the functioning of specialized social systems and technological agents? How can operational restraints and modulators be of assistance to systems to circumvent ecological boundaries? The description of a society without men, as N. Luhmann posits, can be useful to preserve the human space, in the midst of a radically different notion of alterity.

Distributed Papers:

**Inari AALTOJÄRVI (U Tampere, Finland):**

**Homes and Smart Homes: Is there a Difference, and How Does it Matter?**

Abstract: One area in which ubiquitous computing is planned to take place in the future is homes. My paper addresses this issue by contemplating the notion of home in relation to the visions of smart homes. I will ask what kind of elements the home is constituted of, and how these aspects are taken into account in the design of smart homes. The study is based the research in which 20 couples have been thematically interviewed about domestic technologies and the essence of home. The data have



been analyzed discursively and these discourses are then compared to the different visions that are envisioned by smart home engineers and researchers. Following earlier home studies and material culture studies it will be argued that mental and practical making of home crystallizes in feeling of control, harmony, aesthetics, and positive social relationships. Smart home visions, however, are claimed to oppose these central elements of home. In the end of the paper practical implications of this contradiction are discussed in terms of smart home design and ubiquitous computing.

**Carlotta BIZZARRI (U Florence, Italy):**

**The Encounter between New Technologies and Education in the Construction of Children Identity:**

**A case Study of Media Education through Robotics in Italian Primary and Secondary Schools**

Abstract: In the “information” society the Internet and new technologies are creating a new system of knowledge, relations and learning with which the classic system of education has to face already from the primary schools. Integrating the use of new media in the current didactic programs should be a priority for the educational system, even if in a lot of cases it’s a challenge yet. This paper aims to describe a research on the relations among: children, teachers and new technologies (pc, Internet) leading in the context of the project “Projecting and constructing a robot,” one of the few Italian cases of use NXT Lego for educational purposes. The project, sponsored by Civic Council of the city of Florence and Ente Cassa di Risparmio Foundation, has involved three elementary and three middle schools and the research, led by university of Florence, has been conducted on 200 students and 20 teachers. The main questions from which the analysis has started is: What is the role of children identity when the school system encounters new technologies? Does the use of new technologies in learning process contribute to the definition of children identity? Moving from a sociological perspective we have tried to answer these questions, using some methodological tools: participating observation of the class activities during the project, long interviews to children and teachers, realization of works about the identity by students (an ID card of my robot at primary schools and an interview with the robot of the future at middle schools). The qualitative analysis of all these data shows how emerges a worthy circuit among children, new technologies/robot, teachers that permits a important reflexion on the construction of identity from different point of views. The students have reflected about the difference between themselves and machines; the teachers about the awareness that new technologies play an important role in the students’ learning processes; the researchers about the necessity to observe the fast integration between technologies and people, starting from the educational field to understand the future developments. In conclusion we can say that the role of identity is central and fundamental to reflect on the possibility of the real integration between new technologies and educational system, in fact only starting from the single identities (of children but also of teachers) that are hubs “under construction,” it’s possible to see the implications of a project in socialization and learning processes.

**Gabriel BLOUIN GENEST (U Ottawa, Canada), David GRONDIN (U Ottawa, Canada):**

**The Techno-Vitality of Life: Biosecurity as Way of (Optimized) Life**

Abstract: Cyborg, post-humanity or eugenics are usually what we are left with when bio and techno merge in an overexcited sense of a “more than human” and lifeless nearby future. Illuminating the sociological interactions between technologies and biomedicine requires however to go beyond critique, suspicion and technological determinism. A dialogue between technology and life asks for a conceptual move from the technological alteration of life to the opening of new places, spaces and opportunities for its management and optimization: a techno-vitality of life. Hence, this paper seeks to problematize the use of biotechnologies and robotics in disease surveillance and biosecurity through two Pentagon’s DARPA-funded projects: the Trauma Pod program (robotized tactical biomedical interventions on the battlefield) and the Inner Armor program (soldier protections against diseases and harsh climates through advances in biomedicine and nanotechnologies). Following Nikolas Rose and Paul Rabinow, we



argue that the bipolar technology of biopower, centered simultaneously on the individual and the population and which Foucault identified as the anatomo- and biopolitics, can be located and exemplified at the technological level of disease surveillance in the administration of biosecurity. With the molecularization of life and the rise of the microscopic scale of intervention, the interactions between techno-surveillance and biomedicine appear consequently not only as possibilities of control, repression and exclusion, but also as loci for productivity, vitality and optimization of life.

## 17. Urban Futures

Friday, July 16, 15:30-17:30 at Handels B22 (Vasagatan 1)

**Chair:** Dieter HASSENPFUG (Bauhaus U Weimar/U Duisburg-Essen, Germany)  
<hassenpf@uni-weimar.de>, <dieter.hassenpflug@uni-duisburg-essen.de>

### Presenters:

**Sandra GUERRERO (Zayed U, United Arab Emirates): Gendering Urban Space in Abu Dhabi**

Abstract: this research paper will address the issue of spatial gender segregation in the contemporary Muslim city. Supported by previous research conducted in Morocco, Pakistan and Yemen, the questions I try to answer are: Are the pressures of the modern world going to erode ancient gender spatial segregation practices still taking place in some Muslim cities nowadays? Is the future of the Muslim city to be westernized? Having Abu Dhabi as a case study, my field work will concentrate on gendered spaces such as schools, universities, the mosque, ladies' beaches, beauty parlors, public transportation (buses, ladies' taxis); gendered events as weddings; meeting points for instance, elevators, banks, shopping malls, cinemas, coffee shops or the cornice and gendered accommodations such as designating specific days of the week to serve women and children as is the case in pools and entertainment parks and assigning specific rooms or using dividers in restaurants to put women out of the sight of strangers.

**Mark KAMMERBAUER (Bauhaus U Weimar, Germany):**

**Schismourbanism: Cities, Natural Disaster, and Urban Sociology**

Abstract: The purpose of this contribution is to address "urban" planning in relation to natural disaster and climate change, how this complex affects sociospatial patterns of class and ethnicity, and corresponding theoretical/methodological post-disciplinary application. This complex is relevant in the context of city and natural disaster. The author's doctorate research deals with this subject in the case of long-term recovery in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. The theoretical framework is based in the sociospatial perspective (Gottdiener and Hutchison, 2006) and combined with the urbanist/historical perspective of concepts of "urban fabric" (Lefebvre, 1996) and "tessuto urbano" (Muratori, in Rossi 1982). The methodology reflects this approach with both horizontal (quantitative questionnaire-based survey among residents/evacuees in New Orleans and Houston in 2007) and vertical (qualitative interviews with key actors in 2009) case study research. Return to New Orleans is incomplete, leading to sociospatial fragmentation between cities. Current recovery plans miscalculate needs of urban populations. This complex is rooted in differential access to resources based in history, class, and ethnicity. Natural disaster may trigger inter-urban dynamics that cities need to prepare for. Return cannot be "mandated" by recovery plans and urban planning strategies. The question arises: Who do planners plan for?

**Stephanie GEISE (U Hohenheim, Germany):**

### **Urban Vision, Urban Future: An Analysis of the Visually Constructed Metaphors of Urban Reality and Urban Future in the Movie 'I am Legend'**

**Abstract:** The science fiction movie *I am Legend* (US, 2007) presents an impressive visual arrangement of a lifeless, deserted city, where urbanity is disclosed as a fragile model of modern civilization. Since the imaginary constitutes a medium of social reflection (Cornea 2007; Sanders 2007; Roberts 2002; Telotte 2001), a critical vision of urban reality and future is created in this movie where more hidden mental states and tendencies of urban society become visible. This idea, that the visually urban anthroposphere is an appropriate projection medium for the analysis of our contemporary urban and future society, will be illustrated by three lines of argumentation. First, the concept "urbanity" will be sketched out from a sociocultural perspective (Lin/Mele 2005; Häußermann/Siebel 1997; Breckner 2001). A focus is put on the fact, that urbanity manifests itself in the material, objective characteristics of urban structures as well as in the immaterial, social and cultural dimensions of a society—whereby both facets interact (Eisinger 2005; LeGates/Stout 2005; Davis 1990). In a second step, the central visual metaphors of the movie are examined through a qualitative, hermeneutical film analysis. Third, it is pointed out, that throughout the movie the city of New York is used as a crystallization surface of central dichotomies of urbanity that describe the inner conflicts in our urban society. In sum the study exemplifies how the dichotomies, visual constructions and metaphors in *I am Legend* mirror the developments in our contemporary urban society.

**Maria SCHNURR (VW-Zukunftsforschung und Trendtransfer, Germany):**

#### **The Role of the Car in Urban Futures**

**Abstract:** Transport systems and technologies shape cities. Most modern cities are shaped by the automobiles. Which transport systems will shape our future cities—and which role will the car play in it? Already there are signs that the role of the car in cities is changing. Besides measures to ban cars from city centers there are land-use planning approaches that make car ownership and use less necessary and attractive; the demand for mobility services which integrate private and public modes is growing; and driver licence rates among young urbanites are dropping. Yet, the desire for individual, independent mobility stays strong. This all hints at a qualitative change of the role of cars in future cities. What changes can we expect for the urban car system, and how do they contribute to a better quality of life in future cities—socially, ecologically, and economically? This paper will review the current signs of change and provide a glimpse at the future role of the car system: differentiated, integrated, efficient, equitable, and efficient.

Distributed Papers:

**Franklin OBENG-ODOOM (U Sydney, Australia):**

#### **Slums and Evictions in Ghana: A Case of Neoliberalism in the Metropolis?**

**Abstract:** With 70% of the urban population in slums, 20% in poverty, 13% officially classified as unemployed (Obeng-Odoom, forthcoming), the 'urban question' is one of the most difficult for the government and people of Ghana. But the urban question threatens to be even more difficult because in just a year's time, 2010, Ghana will witness an 'urban explosion.' Rural development has now been abandoned as a way of curbing urbanisation and in its place, 'urban governance' prioritised (Obeng-Odoom, 2009). It is important to examine the state of play of urban governance in Ghana by highlighting its characteristics and analyzing its distributional effects. Most of the studies in this area are carried out without much coherent analysis of the power relations that eclipse urban governance—the political economy of urban governance. We have only recently started making this connection and our more popular piece, 'Ghana mayors beautify cities as the urban poor suffer,' has been published by City Mayors—an international think tank on cities. We would critically engage with the literature on local



governance, municipal evictions, privatization of water and municipal waste management drawn first hand from political party manifestos, newspapers and radio accounts. We would also engage with secondary sources like scholarly articles, books, and reports of think tanks like Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions and the National Coalition against the privatization of water. The originality of this study, therefore, lies in the rigorous re-interpretation of the scattered findings on these disparate themes within a political economic framework.

**Nuno SERRA (U Coimbra, Portugal):**

**Economic and Political Challenges of the Contemporary Cities: Towards an Institutional Approach on Urban Governance**

Abstract: Urban economics faces today an important debate, which rises not only from the increasing relevance of cities in a context of economic internationalization and social modernization, but also from a larger discussion confronting different perspectives in the science of Economics. Within this debate, institutionalist perspectives insist on the complexity and multidimensionality of economic phenomena. Exposing the conceptual and theoretical limits of dominant neoclassical approaches to Economics, institutionalist perspectives stress the importance of actors' coordination, spatial contexts, path dependence and non-material dimensions of social reality, which are especially relevant today in order to grasp the dynamics and challenges facing urban spaces. Beginning with a characterization of urban economic neoclassical perspectives—in which distance is usually treated as a mere economic variable and in which actors are seen as exclusively guided by market rationality and efficient allocation principles—we will try to develop the terms of an urban institutionalist approach. For this, we will show how non-material dimensions of urban life (such as culture, citizenship or urban amenities), and the coexistence of different actors and rationalities, cannot be neglected in the study of economic urban dynamics, thereby stressing the relevance of urban governance processes today.

## 18. Approaching the Future

Saturday, July 17, 13:45-15:45 at Handels B22 (Vasagatan 1)

Chair: Hermilio SANTOS (PUCRS Porto Alegre, Brazil) <hermilio@puhrs.br>

Presenters:

**Mariolina GRAZIOSI (U Milan, Italy):**

**Rethinking the Individual in Contemporary Society in Order to Face the Future**

Abstract: Recently the French sociologists Danilo Martucelli and François de Singly have proposed the focus on the sociology of the individual (see *Les Sociologies de l'individu*). The radical process of individualization that characterizes contemporary society, and we expect that it will be more so in the future, has left to the individual the burden to make the fundamental choices on central issues such as sexuality, morality, family and so on. Society in fact is less and less normative, leaving the burden of making existential and social choices to the individual. If we look at history, we see that similar situations were the indicators of a social crisis announcing the end of an era. Within this general topic, I would like to draw attention particularly to the following fundamental questions: 1) can the individual reach an autonomous and mature personality without the guide of a normative society?; 2) can we consider the diminishing of society's regulation and control the sign of a deep crisis that announces the end of an era? These are central issues that are at the core of the reflection about the future. My analysis will draw from sociological theory, from history and psychoanalysis.



**Giuseppina PELLEGRINO (U Calabria, Italy):****Is Future Now? Sociotechnical Discourse as Site for in Fieri Futures**

Abstract: This contribution aims to draw on sociotechnical discourse as site for future making and construction, inquiring how technological determinism prevailing in this public discourse on technologies can be overcome and provide new resources for social theory of the future. Future is the time of the new, the time in which a revolution is expected to happen even if revolution can be envisaged as time for both transformation and conservation. Projection of hopes and horrors, in the form of binary frameworks which enforce technological determinism, characterize the future narratives of technological discourse, whose sources and actors are multiple (the mass media, professional communities, institutions, enterprises). Different conceptions of technology as well as different durations of future can be identified in sociotechnical discourse. On the one hand, technology has an autonomous force and it seems to be almost a-temporal, out of time. At the same time this recurrent pattern, is declined in a short and a long time frame. In the first case, it is the culture of capitalism as based on a 'tomorrow after future' and emphasis on consuming a reified future temporarily embedded into artefacts which need to be owned (and consumed). - However, there is a farther future performed through sociotechnical discourse, as feed by multiple sources or actors, from popular media to science fiction. This horizon takes a longer pace as the concern and expectation of a radical revolution foster anger and desire, horror and hope at future scenarios.

**Vanessa BARKER (U Stockholm, Sweden, USA):****Globalization, Immigration and Penal Order**

Abstract: Globalization has increased the flow of people across Europe, bringing with it economic expansion and ethnic diversity. Alongside increased mobility (and freedom), state coercion has been on the rise. Nearly every European democracy has increased incarceration since 1990 with over-representation of foreign offenders but produced culturally distinctive penal regimes with varying imprisonment rates. This paper seeks to explain the major change in European penal sanctioning and the substantial variation within that change. This paper argues that penal sanctioning provides a strategic site to resolve disputes about national belonging and national sovereignty, but that nation-specific institutions like the democratic process shape the eventual penal outcomes. By using comparative and historical methodology, the researcher develops a thick description of historical context and systematic analysis of a small number of cases, Sweden, the United Kingdom and France, and explains why societies develop penal regimes differently. - The impact is potentially quite large since it takes up a contested issue, immigration and criminal justice, and tries to understand how immigrants have been caught up in European ambivalence about global integration and neo-nationalism, tensions that are managed differently through nation specific legal institutions. How societies adapt to changing conditions and integrate new members into their society is critical to their social, economic, and political stability. It will show that European democracies that incorporate immigrants more effectively through group membership are less likely to rely on highly coercive means to control them. By contrast, European nations that fail to do so could face a grim future built on the social exclusion of perceived outsiders.

**Alexander RUSER (Heidelberg U, Germany):****Sociological Quasi-Labs: The Case for Deductive Scenario Development**

Abstract: Scenario building has been a neglected issue of professional sociology. In the light of the long tradition of epistemological dispute in the social sciences, prominently acuminated in the Thomas Theorem, the reluctance of professional sociologists to address "methods of forecasting" and futures research is not surprising. Thomas' proposition highlights a cardinal problem of sociological research,



caused by the essential ability of the very object of research to interact with (and by this being altered by) the scientific findings, and reminds us of the constant threat of producing self-fulfilling (Merton) or suicidal prophecies (Andreski). Sadly, the silence of sociology cannot be the answer. Due to the fact that there is a public demand for “scientific” predictions, particularly with regard to new and growing uncertainties, the refusal of professional sociology to cater to these demands gives room to a forecasting industry, filled with pseudo-scientific charlatans (for example John Naisbitt or the inescapable Faith Popcorn) who don’t care much for methodological standards. In sum: sociological theory about future developments faces important obstacles and simultaneously competes with commercial market criers of “Megatrends.” Since the 1970s scenario techniques became increasingly popular within economic planning units and are beginning to influence (scientific) political consulting too. I think that it might pay off to explore the potential of these techniques as “sociological test fields” or “quasi-laboratories.” Especially the deductive scenario development process, which starts with the identification of the overall framework by defining the most likely “driving forces” can function as a “test range” for sociological theory building and verification of existing theories as well. Institutional theories, questioning the conditions for institutional stability (path dependencies) and circumstances and modes of institutional change (punctuated equilibrium models, incremental change) can be used to develop plausible concepts of future developments. Since scenario building stresses plausibility not probability, they can serve as touchstones for the consistency of sociological models and for their range and limits of explanation alike. Instead of getting lost in “scientific prophecy” or trivial “trendspotting,” sociological scenario building may help developing testable sets of “if...then” statements, which may not predict the future, but rather point to possible future developments (from a sociological point of view).

**Patrick ZILTENER (U Zurich, Switzerland):**

**Deepening Globalization Bilaterally—Japan’s FTA Strategy towards Highly Developed Countries:  
A Comparison of Australia’s and Switzerland’s Experiences, 2000-09**

Abstract: The paper examines Japan’s motivations in opening negotiations on FTAs with Australia and Switzerland. Japan’s FTA policy towards the two countries can be analyzed in the constellation of intersections between domestic and international factors. The crucial difference lies in reactions from agriculture-related actors: While the negotiations with Switzerland profited from active support by the Agricultural Ministry, agricultural interest groups oppose the conclusion of an FTA with Australia. Importantly, geo-political and geo-economic factors had strong influences in encouraging the Japanese government to begin FTA negotiations with these two countries. While Australia is a close security ally and a main source of resources for Japanese industry, Switzerland is a traditional ally in WTO-negotiations and considered a gateway to the European market. In both cases, FTAs should liberalize bilateral trade and end discrimination against Japanese companies.

Distributed Papers:

**Federico LEDESMA ZALDIVAR (New School for Social Research, USA):**

**The Role of Memory in Conceptualizing Future**

Abstract: This paper highlights articulated memory as a condition of possibility for projecting a future. I analyze how the form of remembering allows or compels from imagining futures. I combine data from my field work in human rights (NGO’s) and the academic one. The work is divided in three parts: Social frameworks of memory and of projection. I argue –with Halbwachs– that frameworks allow us to project backwards working as a guiding thread towards the past; but it can also work for the future; (I analyze The indigenous peoples’ projects in Mexico are unthinkable without a memory articulated as a people-nation.) the same way past can be naturalized, so can future (frameworks for memory can make appear past as natural (it had to be like that), but also can restrict the future as a hope and as a will



(possibilities for transforming are these and not others); key tenets to recover a projective memory. Once the importance of frameworks is clear and so is one possible effect –naturalizing, I suggest –based on Zimmelman, three tenets for the conception future. a) avoiding eurocentrism (ethnocentrism); b) avoiding relativism (impossibility for communication); and c) projecting globally and systemically.

**Pantelis VATIKIOTIS (Panteion U, Greece):**

**The Fluid Social Imaginary of New Mediating Practices**

Abstract: New mediating practices involve considerable occurrences of representation and participation of the ‘ordinary’ —people, their activities and discourses—in public space. From this perspective, the communication terrain expands to include practices and processes that are not realized within the formal political society, but across the nooks and crannies of civil society, and along different public spheres formed on multiple scales, on the grounds of the realization of citizenship. In this context, further challenges and questions are addressed in regards to the interplay of these categories. Critical issues are raised here concerning the nature of “being a citizen” and “doing democracy,” figuring out another agonistic space for understanding democracy and its most profound processes.

## 19. Tomorrow's Education

Saturday, July 17, 16:00-18:00 at Handels B22 (Vasagatan 1)

Chair: Sonsoles SAN ROMAN (UA Madrid, Spain) <s.sanroman@uam.es>

Presenters:

**Mariano FERNÁNDEZ ENGUITA (U Salamanca, Spain):**

**Information, Attention, and Knowledge**

Abstract: This society that we so often characterize as an information or a knowledge society, one in which both gain a growing importance in economic and social processes, would seem to bring with it the advent of a double utopia which has been fostered by educators for centuries (officially, since Plato's Republic): for society, the renewed strength of cultural capital as a factor of stratification, resulting in the fall of the relevance of economic capital (wealth) as well of social capital (cradle), that is, a meritocracy of knowledge; for the school institution, a widening in the demand for its services and thus for those of their professionals, given the centrality of school capital (credentials) in the labour market. However, the results could be paradoxical and quite different from those anticipated. Michael Goldhaber has pointed out that one consequence of the overabundance of information is the lack of what is consumed by it, attention. As regards school information this means stiffer competition to attract students' attention, in many cases simply the loss of the privilege of exclusivity, which results in a growing disinterest in it and in a progressive disengagement of the pupil from the institution. In the broader context of society, ICT extends and certainly democratizes access to information, but precisely because of it knowledge, i.e. the ability to effectively manage that information, becomes more essential and then more unequal and polarized in its distribution.

**Celso FERRETTI (U Sorocaba, Brazil), Cláudia VIANNA (U São Paulo, Brazil):**

**Neoliberal Policies, Its Reinforcement or Its Suppression: An Uncertain Future for the Brazilian Education?**

Abstract: The objective of this presentation is to examine the contradictory character of the Brazilian neoliberal educational policies established in the 1990's during the government of Fernando Henrique Cardoso and slightly modified, but continued by the government of president Luis Inácio Lula da Silva.

For the last 20 years educational policies in Brazil have followed the recommendations of multilateral agencies that organized schooling with the objective of producing docile and efficient workers with low critical capacities. On the other hand, these two governments appear to incorporate the historical demands of social movements, especially those concerning to racism, homophobia and gender inequalities. The tensions created by these two policies are felt at all levels of the educational system, and although they are quite evident, have not been thoroughly studied by the sociologist of education in Brazil. In this paper we intend to debate the future of such policies, which will be determined by the presidential election of November 2010.

**Francesc HERNÁNDEZ I DOBON (U Valencia, Spain), José BELTRÁN (U Valencia, Spain):**

**Recent Trends on Educational Policies: Problems, Perceptions and Perplexities**

Abstract: The recent studies with the greatest impact on educational policies in the space of the European Union use performance indicators that hinder the perception of educational processes. Amendments to the European training systems, which are organized around skills, are holistically oriented, and are inconsistent with the analytical dynamics of the usual indicators. The European Qualifications Framework and Higher Education Space offers a chance to review the set of indicators, introducing studies of process, horizontal and self-assessment and allowing inventory of valuable learning experiences beyond the trends of the international agenda.

**Hiro TOYOTA (Kansai Gaidai U, Osaka, Japan):**

**Trends in International Education in the Age of Globalization:**

**Students Exchange from Japanese Perspectives**

Abstract: In the past 30 years, globalization has been without argument one of the most important social issues in Japanese society. The government was concerned about the nation's educational condition in that Japanese higher education was far behind the numbers of international students compared to the US and Europe. The basic idea on this view was that Japan was not open to the world. In short, Japan lagged behind other nations in internationalization. In 1983, the Japanese government implemented a plan to increase the number of international students to 100,000 by the year 2000. This goal was reached in 2003. Five years later, in 2008, the government implemented another plan to increase the number three fold to 300,000 by the year 2020. This narrative paper discusses Japanese trends in international education since the 1980's and circumstances around the plan. In the author's assessment, there are some obstacles to this plan. One of them would be setting a target number of 300,000 without having a clear meaning of what it means "Japan is open to the word." The author will go over several aspects of this topic.

Distributed Paper:

**Gustavo E. FISCHMAN (Arizona State U, USA) and Eric M. HAAS (WestEd, USA):**

**Framing the Present and Future of the American Research University**

Abstract: This paper focuses on the debates about the present and future of the model of the "American Research University." In order to understand this debate in this research we identify and conceptualize the "prototypes" evidenced in approximately 1200 op-eds on higher education gathered from the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Los Angeles Times* during the period 1980-2010. These newspapers were selected because they have very large circulations, are usually cited as being influential, and sustain a reputation of being somewhat "neutral." Mutli-level coding was conducted. First, objective coding (newspaper, date, author, education level, etc.). Second, close text analysis of a randomly selected subset of 252 higher education articles, approximately 20% of the total, to describe discourse patterns. Our findings indicate that there are three institutional prototypes structuring the



general understanding of US based research universities: *Academic Nostalgia* (AN) and *Educational Entrepreneurship* (EE). *Redemptive Educational-Consumerism* (REC). The AN prototype seems to be losing favor in the debate, the other two prototypes, Educational Entrepreneurism and Redemptive Consumerism, are increasing their presence by closely associating “access to universities” with consumerist conceptions of education.

## 20. Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 14, 10:45-12:45 at Handels B22 (Vasagatan 1)

TBA, contact isarc07@gmail.com

## 21. Gender, Science, Technology, Innovation & the Future

Joint Session of RC07 Futures Research, RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology, and RC32 Women in Society

Friday, July 16, 15:30-17:30 Svenska Mässan G3

**Chairs:** Solange SIMÕES (Eastern Michigan U, USA) <ssimoes@emich.edu>

Radhamany SOORYAMOORTHY (U KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa) <sooryamoorthy@ukzn.ac.za>

**Presenters:**

**Judith ZUBIETA (UNAM, Mexico):**

**Gender Digital Divide among Professors:**

**Are Universities Showing a Path for an Equitable Knowledge Society?**

Abstract: Studies have shown gender differences in terms of knowledge and use of ICT. Some of them explore ICT access differentials as well as elements concerning their design and development in masculine domains. In our study of university professors we found gender differences not only in terms of knowledge and usage but also in the degree of complexity of the technological tools available to faculty for teaching purposes. If ICTs are meant to improve and expand education to population which has been deprived from it, efforts ought to be made in order to overcome the gap that is simultaneously hampering the path towards the Knowledge Society.

**Khosro MALEKI (U Metz, France):**

**The Scientific Culture: Attentive Public and Interested Public**

Abstract: The conception of the scientific culture is profoundly changed. The notion of the culture integrates the scientific knowledge to a wide public. The question is: who are the public of the science? To measure the scientific culture means to get to know the information about the public perception and understanding of the science. The scientific culture can be estimated from four dimensions: the interest, the attention on the scientific subjects, the scientific knowledge and the attitude to the science. Our survey using during the edition 2008 of the "*Festival of the Science*" in Lorraine (France), allows us to classify the public in three categories: "*attentive public*" (very interested and very well informed public), "*interested public*" (very interested public but who does not consider as very well informed), and "*curious public*" (all other combinations of answers). The hypothesis is that the percentage of the "*attentive public*" is lower than that of the "*interested public*," either for the women or for men. We notice three scientific subjects of the most interesting, from vision of the public, are respectively in order of preference: the environment, the health, and the feeding. Although the feminine public expresses a very important interest for the environmental problems it does not stay of them a lot having



"very good" information in these domains. According to this indication, the comparison of the popularity of the scientific domains is possible for the feminine public.

**Roxana TOADER (U Bucharest, Romania):**  
**Comparative Analysis of Scientific Literacy Scale by Gender**

Distributed Papers:

**Ting-Yu KANG (U Oxford, UK):**  
**Gendered Technology, Changing Intimacy: Networked Communication in Transnational Families**

Abstract: This paper investigates how migrants use the Internet to maintain transnational families and how this Internet use serves to transform the power dynamics between men and women within the family sphere. This focus requires in-depth investigation for existing studies on digital divide seldom focus on families from a transnational perspective, while research on migration and migrants' family structures rarely include direct analysis of the role of communication technologies, the digital divide, and their effects. Focusing on London-based Chinese between 21 and 38 years of age, the research is based on 53 semi-structured interviews and participant observation in the environments where the migrants use the Internet and participate in social events. This includes cafes with WiFi points, offices, homes, and city places where some migrants use Blackberry devices and cell phones and other events where migrants gather and talk about experiences of being diasporan. The results indicate that Internet use has become the method most frequently adopted by migrants to maintain transnational family relationships. Migrants use a variety of Internet tools to maintain contact with overseas family members, including instant messaging, video conferencing, email, and, sometimes, blogs. This dependence on Internet use together with the digital divide between men and women –particularly among the older generation –serves to silence women Internet users in the sphere of transnational family. While migrants' mothers tend to have less digital literacy than their fathers, a large number of women in Chinese transnational families contact their overseas children only when male family members are present and assist their Internet use. As a result, the supposedly feminine responsibilities of care, affection, and emotional support for overseas family members have been portrayed as masculine.

**Eva Johanna SCHWEITZER (U Mainz, Germany):**  
**Gender Styles in Online Campaigning: Comparing German and American Candidate Websites**

Abstract: Although more women compete today for political offices all around the world, their portrayal in the media is still characterized by traditional gender stereotypes. This applies to the amount of news coverage ('annihilation') as well as to the personal qualities, political issues, and behavioral norms that are associated with them ('trivialization'). The arrival of the Internet as a new channel for mass-mediated political communication has offered female candidates the possibility to overcome these stereotypes and to project a more balanced and accurate image of themselves in the public. In fact, past studies in the US have shown that male and female candidates compete on equal grounds in cyberspace as regards the content and formal structure of their homepages. Thus far, though, it is unclear whether this kind of gender equality on the Internet is an American phenomenon or an international trend. To address this question, this paper applies Banwart's webstyle concept to German candidate homepages in the 2009 European parliamentary elections. The results provide the first methodological test of this approach in a non-US environment and a detailed comparison of gender differences in e-campaigning in Germany and the US.



## 22. Internet, Science, Policy, and Development in Depressed Regions and Countries

Joint Session of RC07 Futures Research and RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology  
**Friday, July 16, 10:45-12:45 at Svenska Mässan G3**

**Chairs:** Jaime JIMÉNEZ (UNAM, Mexico) <jjimenez@servidor.unam.mx>  
 Radhamany SOORYAMOORTHY (U KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa) <sooryamoorthyr@ukzn.ac.za>

**Presenters** (to be confirmed):

**Radhamany SOORYAMOORTHY (U KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa):  
 The Internationalization of South African Medical Science, 1975-2005**

**Abstract:** South Africa's record in the production of scientific knowledge in medicine is remarkable, but attempts have yet to be made to examine its distinctive characteristics. This is critical to the understanding of its nature, trends, and the directions which it is taking today. Using the publication records extracted from the SCI database of the ISI Web of Knowledge for a three decade period from 1975 to 2005 with five-year windows, the paper examines the salient characteristics of medical research in South Africa in terms of the count of publications, type of publications (sole/coauthored), collaboration (domestic/international), affiliation sector of authors and collaborators, regional origin of collaborators, publication outlets, and citations, in comparison to all subjects. The paper argues that the internationalization (measured in terms of international collaboration, publications in externally originated journals, and the number of citations) of South African medical research is taking place and that in the given trends this internationalization is likely to continue in future.

**Sebastián MÖLLER (UN-ECLAC, Chile), Guillermo SUNKEL (UN-ECLAC, Chile), Daniela TRUCCO (UN-ECLAC, Chile):**

**Learning and Teaching with ICT in Latin America: Potential Benefits**

**Abstract:** This is a research paper that seeks to identify the possible benefits of including and promoting the use of ICT in the Latin American school system, focusing on results at the student level. This question is relevant in times where the majority of the countries of this region are investing significantly in ICT policies. The paper starts out with a revision of the main findings of worldwide research in this area, concluding that impact is not clear-cut, that results depend on the type of technology and the type of use promoted, and that learning results are difficult to measure. It continues with a statistical description of the access and uses in place for students in Latin America, using the data available through international assessment tests: the Programme for International Student Assessment, PISA 2006 and the Second Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study, SERCE 2006. It finally uses the data for three Latin American countries (Colombia, Chile and Uruguay), that included the special ICT questionnaire in their PISA 2006, to analyze how students use ICT, what variables are related to the different types of use, and what association can be found between those types of uses and student scientific learning results. This is done using multivariate and multilevel statistical analysis.

**Mdu MTSALI (U KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa), Tanusha RANIGA (U KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa), Sultan KHAN (U KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa):**

**Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS): Poverty Alleviation and Sustainability of Community-Based Programs and Projects: A Case Study of Inanda in the Urban Renewal Programme of eThekweni (Durban)**

**Abstract:** Almost 16 years since the advent of the new political dispensation, South Africa continues to grapple with high rates of poverty and inequality. In its infant democracy although various poverty



alleviation programs and projects have been implemented with some degree of success there still remains alarmingly high levels of poverty amongst those that have been historically disadvantaged. Based on field research in the Urban Renewal Programme in Inanda, Durban, South Africa the paper examines the extent of appreciation for local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) and its relative impact on the failure of poverty alleviation programs and community based projects. The paper examines the policy context of social development, the importance attached to IKS as part of a holistic poverty alleviation strategy within the broad social development framework currently in place in the country and the extent to which IKS can be incorporated as part of poverty alleviation programs and projects.

**Mahjabeen Khaled HOSSAIN (Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW, Bangladesh):**

**Children with Disabilities in Bangladesh: Information Technology-based Integrative Programs**

Abstract: Bangladesh is a developing nation with a vast population, amongst them 3.4 million children suffer from a disability. The majority of them reside in the rural areas and therefore, are too poverty stricken to address their special needs. They are considered a liability to their families and to society and this perpetuates multiple forms of violence against them. The government thus far, has failed to recognize and take action on this issue. Moreover, given the social stigmas attached to people with disabilities further isolates them from participation in both public and private lives. They are a source of embarrassment for their families and thus are often psychologically and physically abused. Although this group of people have been oppressed on many levels, and given their limited resources, they have been successful in using technology innovatively towards social progress. Information technology has become an important part of envisioning and realizing change to daily life for individuals, as well as the architecture and systems of society. Children learn quickly and therefore, when these children are introduced to skills at an early age, they acquire sufficient skills by the time they are adolescents to be self sufficient. In order to break down the traditional ideologies of abuse and neglect of people with disabilities, it is vital that children with disabilities are addressed as a priority. The objective of this paper is to develop a comprehensive socio-economic analysis of the status of children with disabilities in Bangladesh and propose to initiate information technology based programs for them with disabilities which will help them to integrate in mainstream society whilst also establishing their basic human rights. Furthermore it will discuss the universality of these rights and illustrate that even the Holy Quran had been revealed 1,400 years ago, its divine laws are applicable even in this era of modernity.

**Fereshteh YEKANI (Ministry of Mines and Industries, Iran):**

**Increasing Impacts of Modern Communication Technologies on Younger People in Tehran**

Abstract: The paper explores how the modern wave of communication technologies such as mobile phone networks and Internet connections have affected, and are affecting younger cohorts in Iran, particularly in the capital city Tehran. These media are widely and strongly changing the youth culturally and socially in different dimensions. This electronic revolution is strongly creating a new society in which the younger and older generations are staying apart from each other. However, a new form of ambivalence is appearing within the youth due to this phenomenon. While relevant resources and literature were used in order to build the theoretical framework, in the empirical section, different clusters of families in different parts of greater Tehran, as the capital city of Iran were referred to, and for whom designed questionnaires were completed for young cohorts of 15-24 years of age. The study shows various characteristics of about 600 young people, and the fact that how they had been influenced by the modern means of communications. The research shows increasing challenges and anti-social behaviors within the youth. Such conditions have created some sort of cultural gap between the youth and the older people (parents). It is clear from the study that differences are increasing



between the two generations. Similarly, the youth highly admire the e-means and are highly used to the modern life. Yet, parents sought solutions to the new network of relationships.

## 23. Emerging Technologies and Leisure

Joint Session of RC07 Futures Research, RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology, and RC13 Sociology of Leisure

**Friday, July 16, 17:45-19:45 at Svenska Mässan Hall G4**

**Chairs:** Scott NORTH (U Osaka, Japan) <north@hus.osaka-u.ac.jp>  
Dirk STEINBACH (FH-Salzburg, Austria) <dirk.steinbach@fh-salzburg.ac.at>

**Presenters:**

**Fanny DUBOIS (Centre Universitaire JF Champollion, France):**

### **Learning Competences of 'Outdoor Leisure Sports' Professionals: The Contribution of Technologies**

**Abstract:** Our communication suggests studying dynamics of the small French firms of sport tourism. We are interested in the resources used by professionals to develop their company. These resources influence their working practices. Owing to the heterogeneity of the actors (business leaders, sports instructors, consumers) and the technologies (sports material, outdoor characteristics) in the sport tourism industry, the Actor Network Theory (Callon, 1986; Latour, 2006; Law, 1994) seems relevant to realize technologies usefulness relating to leisure sport development. It indeed allows us to map relations which are material (e.g. between things, artefacts) and semiotic (e.g. between concepts). This theory considers all surrounding factors, human and non-human. Thirty-five interviews and ethnographic observations were performed in small outdoor sports tourism companies in one of the French state which called Aveyron. Our research reveals that the development of outdoor leisure sport firms is relating to the networking of human actors and "non human" actors. Through translation's operations, these heterogeneous combinations enable to develop technological innovations (such as the use of sports equipment more adapted, more simple and less expensive). These innovations transform technical know-how and practical methods, modify or induce learning competences, allowing the leisure sport professionals to adjust their work to tourism market and develop their companies.

**Jari ARO (U Tampere, Finland):**

### **Domestication of Online Music Services**

**Abstract:** Listening to music is a popular form of leisure. This paper studies the social practices and affordances in consuming music by using online music services. The analysis is based on qualitative interview data with young adults in Finland who have recently started to use a new Internet service (www.spotify.com). This is an online music service offering users the ability to stream music on demand. My analysis is focused on the level of individual practices and social relations. The conceptual framework is the theory of domestication process of technology (e.g. Roger Silverstone et al.). This case adds some new perspectives to this approach by studying the domestication of a computer application to individual's practices of consuming music. In online services the music is distributed and consumed in immaterial digital formats, which has an important affect to practices of consuming music. In recent research great attention has been given to the ways how portable music players are used to give proximity and experience of privacy in public places. This paper however focuses to the use of computer as a means to consume music in private. Although people listen to music usually alone in their homes there are significant social relations and forms of social interaction around this activity. People share music and their experiences and opinions of it with significant others and they search



information and recommendations of new music. This happens in a mixed network of interpersonal relations, forms of mass communication and the social use of online services.

**Jari LUOMANEN (U Tampere, Finland):**

**The Moralities, Justifications and Discursive Work Related to Purchasing a Digital SLR Camera**

Abstract: Digital cameras have become commonplace during the last ten years. Digital single lens reflex (SLR) cameras offer the possibility of using interchangeable lenses and promise better image quality than compact cameras. This study explores the digital SLR purchase as an example of upgrading to and investing in premium technology. The moralities, justifications and the overall body of discursive work related to the purchasing decision will be studied. The SLR camera is an interesting case as it is (for most buyers) related to leisure experience and the purchase decision stimulates verbal displays that concern aesthetics, art, user skills, technical quality, leisure experience and other issues concerning “needs” and “wants” that are debated and justified. Theoretically this study is related to the sociological studies of technology and domestication of technology as well as studies of leisure. The data will be obtained by means of Internet ethnography and interviews. Online discussions related to the topic will be analyzed and interviews will be carried out as well. Social constructionist approach to understanding the data will be adopted and discourse analysis used as the method. The results will contribute to our understanding of leisure and the domestication of new and emerging technology.

**Matthew MATHIAS (Emory U, USA), Selina GALLO-CRUZ (Emory U, USA), John BOLI (Emory U, USA):**  
**The Globalization of Sudoku**

Abstract: Predecessors and variants have been widely known for centuries, but it was not until 2005 that the sudoku number puzzle suddenly globalized. It did so at a dizzying pace. Lexis-Nexis reports four scattered newspaper articles mentioning sudoku from January to early May, 2005, followed by 27 articles in the second week of May and 121 articles in the third week. Global Books in Print lists no English-language sudoku books for 2004; in 2005, 11 titles appeared from January through May, 110 from June through August, and 286 from September through November. A total of 456 titles appeared in 2005, 717 in 2006. Sudoku is now everywhere, from the supermarket to the airline travel magazine, celebrated in local and international competitions and even on television game shows. How can we solve the puzzle of sudoku’s phenomenally rapid globalization? In this paper we draw on several disparate data sources to trace the patterns of sudoku’s spread and evaluate hypotheses about variations in sudoku popularity. Our quantitative analyzes investigate both how soon a country or region’s residents jumped on the sudoku bandwagon and the intensity of their interest in sudoku. Of particular interest is our use of web search data (using eight different writing systems) from Google Trends and Google Insights, relatively new and rich resources for information on globalization that have not previously been used in sociological research. In the last part of the paper we explore general arguments about the operations of world culture, whose increasingly rationalized, scientized, and complex character favors the spread of some types of cultural elements (including sudoku) but not others.

**Nidhi BANSAL (U Rajastahn, India):**

**Technology and Leisure: Study of Youth Behavior in Developing Countries**

Abstract: Technology has always played a decisive role in shaping the life of human being. But the recent and unprecedented advancements and expansion of technological innovations have almost provided wings to the pace of changes in every sphere of our life. Today, we all are captured by technology in a way or other. Technology has got embedded in our lives in such a way, that if not given access someday, we feel handicapped. Youth has always been on the forefront in using technology and proliferation of technological gadgets in everyday life has transformed their lives too. Technology has



not only transformed the way we work but also the way we relax, rejuvenate and refresh ourselves, i.e. our leisure time activities. Leisure has been the concern of man through the ages. It represents man's ultimate goal of life of tranquility and contemplation, a quality life. Work and leisure are two sides of a coin, both of which are essentially worthy for a healthy life as well a health society. Leisure activities give expression to enhance self-personality leading to successful adjustment process and life satisfaction. Researches indicate that choices and participation in leisure time activities vary according to age in life cycle, availability of time and resources, personal interests and the satisfaction derived. The present study is an attempt to understand the youth behavior (18-25 years of age) in a developing country like India in the context of technological innovations and leisure. Today, youth are becoming obsessed to the technology and spend much of their leisure time with TV, computer, Internet, and mobile phones, leading to noticeable reduction of social and physical activity. Watching TV, listening to music, communicating through networking sites, chatting, and playing games are the most common leisure activities surfaced in study. But there is a marked variation in respect to socio-economic status, skill and access to technology to the time spent and nature of activity on these gadgets in leisure.

**Vili LEHDONVIRTA (Helsinki Institute for Information Technology/HIIT, Finland):**

**Digital Free Time: Social Leisure and Leisurely Shopping in Online Peer Groups**

**Abstract:** Besides their individual and psychological functions, leisure time activities such as sports and shopping contribute to the formation of peer groups and to the maintaining and strengthening of social ties among families and local communities in modern societies. This social aspect of leisure is today arguably under pressure: processes of urbanization, labor mobility and economic change increasingly undermine local community formation, while economic and environmental crises challenge leisurely shopping and consumption as a form of social activity. Is the future of leisure in the global economy a lonely and austere moment between work and sleep? In this paper, I focus on how the pervasive adoption of information and communication technologies in everyday life shapes the answer to this question. On one hand, digital gadgets can be blamed for diverting leisure away from human intercourse, enabling the transcendence of work over local communities, and being part of the increasing problem of competitive hyperconsumption. On the other hand, computer-mediated peer groups have emerged as significant sources of social leisure activity, identification and emotional support for the uprooted individual. Computer-mediated "virtual consumption" of digital objects may moreover represent an avenue where money and competitive pressures to consume may be diverted with less consequence to natural resources. To substantiate these perspectives, I use data from a survey of 4,395 Japanese, British and Spanish online hangout users to examine how they identify with computer-mediated and traditional peer groups, and how motives for spending real money on virtual items compare to material consumption motives.

**Nuno de ALMEIDA ALVES (CIES-ISCTE-IUL, Portugal), Ana NUNES DE ALMEIDA (ICS-UL, Portugal), Ana DELICADO (ICS-UL, Portugal):**

**Families and the Internet: Resources, Skills and Online Activities**

**Abstract:** Computers and the Internet play an increasingly important role in the everyday lives of individuals and families. Work, education, communication, entertainment and leisure activities are more than ever performed with the help of the electronic means available in contemporary homes. In which way does this contribute to the reinstatement of family solidarity? Are ICTs a factor of integration or disruption of family lives? The answer to this question may depend significantly on several factors that will be analyzed throughout this paper. The first factor is the balance of digital skills inside the family. A minimum of shared digital literacy between the family's members may facilitate common activities and the sharing of electronic practices, information and resources. Conversely, in some circumstances, it may also contribute to a deepening of individual fruition of individualized electronic activities. On the



other hand, a digitally divided family, where parents are incipient users or non-users and children are highly skilled, may produce a radical segmentation of online and offline leisure activities between the generations. A second factor of this unequal balance of digital skills inside the families is related to the differential educational background and material resources of the parents, with the corresponding differential parental involvement and influence on children's electronic activities. The different scenarios concerning the use of computers and Internet, digital skills, educational and material resources, and family environments will be analyzed in this paper. This presentation is based on an ongoing research project combining qualitative and quantitative data. The survey, launched in Portugal in May-June 2008, was applied to 3,049 children studying in public and private schools (Grade 4-9) located in contrasting areas of the country. The interviews were carried out in 2009, to children (150) and parents (50).

**Ada CATTANEO (IULM, Italy):**

**When the Many Are Reduced to One, to What is the One Reduced?**

**A Study on Leisure Shopping Future Perspectives in Italy**

**Abstract:** A growing number of phenomena shows the deep transformation occurring in leisure paradigm. Such a revolution results from a shift in values structuring sociocultural background as well as individual everyday life. The forthcoming society and era are shaped by the conspicuous effects of this change on mainstream concepts and experiences –turning hedonism into hedolism (hedonism+holism), happiness into wellthiness (wellness+ healthiness+ happiness—and by new tendencies to authenticity, environment sensitivity, participation, customization, and networking it triggers. A privileged perspective on what is happening in leisure-sphere is suggested by one of its main epiphanies: shopping. The paper is a wide analysis on Italian leisure-shopping scenario. Its main topics are three: (1) It draws Italian scenario. It puts on a map and describes values forming sociocultural background, their trends and development. (2) It focuses on leisure-shopping in hic and nunc. It explores: the ambivalent meanings of shopping-leisure; the experiences it is mainly made of and Italians' appreciation for it; and (3) it puts the issue on a diachronic perspective and it points out: what of traditional shopping-leisure is reasonably going to be carried forward, because it's attuned to forthcoming Zeitgeist, and what is supposed to be left behind; how the phenomenon seems to be going to develop; its social impact. The methodological approach is grounded in sociocultural theories hypothesizing cultural and axiological origin of social and individual phenomena, included shopping and leisure.

## **24. Futures after the Crisis: Theoretical, Historical, and Comparative Perspectives**

Joint Session of RC07 Futures Research, RC09 Social Transformations and Sociology of Development, and TG02 Historical and Comparative Sociology

**Thursday, July 15, 17:45-19:45 at Artisten A 302 (=U Göteborg's School of Music and Drama, Fågelsången 1, about 5 minutes walk from Svenska Mässan)**

**Chair:** Markus S. Schulz (UIUC, USA) <isarc07@gmail.com>

**Presenters:**

**Ulrike SCHUERKENS (EHESS, France):**

**Crisis and Transformations: A Theoretical Overview**



Abstract: This paper analyzes the notions of crisis and conflict, and their importance for social transformations by focusing on theoretical aspects. The aim of the paper is to contribute to an understanding of the notion of crisis, and to possible openings that a theory of social transformations can provide. The paper will look for possibilities how research on social transformations and changes can suggest outcomes and possible reactions in a time of crisis. The presentation will contribute to an ex post analysis of the global reactions from fall 2008 to spring 2009; an analysis that may permit a more rational handling of future crisis situations with an open becoming. It is suggested that media, politicians, employers, and bankers were included in a global net of information that reproduced feelings on the financial crisis that had not much to do with rational actions. In fact, the crisis got a global character but economic, political, and cultural thinking was not prepared to act in a global space on a topic that concerned peoples and states in a critical period. The paper also discusses how far the weakness of the economic thinking on the free market and the then ambiguous global economic future let bankers, media, employers, and politicians with few possibilities to act rationally. As economic theory has hardly been univocal and in order to provide significant theoretical and empirical results, the author compares the sociological tradition on the notions of conflict and crisis from scholars such as Saint-Simon, Durkheim, E. Morin, Tourraine, and Balandier who have tried to analyze both notions in groundbreaking publications. This understanding will then permit to provide a rational explanation of the financial crises on the basis of observation, analysis, and interpretation in order to display possible sociological and socio-economical outcomes of a critical-historical analysis of the present.

**Edward WEBSTER (U Witwatersrand, South Africa):**

**The Dilemma of Militancy: Worker Responses to the Economic Crisis in South Africa**

Abstract: Based on field work amongst workers and their shop floor representatives in South Africa's automobile assembly and component industry, the research shows how the role of worker representatives is being undermined by the economic crisis that is impacting on South Africa's most successful export industry. Worker representatives are being pulled, like pieces of elastic, between the demands by management for workers to go on short-time and cut their wages on one hand, and on the other hand they are accused by their members of being co-opted because they have not succeeded in blocking management's restructuring strategy. The result has been a vote of no confidence in their representatives and a destabilization of South Africa's largest and strongest organized workplace. The paper is an examination of whether a shift from this class stalemate to class compromise is possible in a developing society such as South Africa. The paper challenges Adam Przeworski's view, drawn from advanced industrialized societies, that the conditions for class compromise do not hold in developing societies because economic concessions are not possible and labor is too weak. Instead of class compromise Przeworski offers 'elite compromise' or 'pacts' as the underlying basis for democracy. Pacts, he agrees, are a feeble basis for a stable democracy, very much a second best to class compromise. The paper argues that economic concessions have already been made at the national level in South Africa in the form of a social wage. Indeed, South Africa's social expenditure is now similar to that of the average European welfare state. The problem lies in the workplace. The question is whether there is a possibility of a compromise without economic concessions at the workplace level in which, firstly, capital gives up the right to absolute control in the workplace and allows participation and codetermination. Secondly, in which workers make concessions to capital in return for which capital promises not to relocate to low wage countries elsewhere. However for this compromise to work workers will need to be organized within bargaining institutions. This implies that labor will need to adopt what Przeworski calls 'optimal militancy'; too much militancy means accumulation will be too slow and ultimately material benefits will be less and capital may exit, whereas too little militancy will mean that capital accumulates without giving much up. This will be the empirical heart of the paper; an examination of the limits and possibilities of an attempt to adopt the strategy of 'optimal militancy' and



the implications this has for the compromises struck at the national level, such as the neo-Keynesian redistributive Framework for South Africa's Response to the International Economic Crisis adopted in February 2009 by government with employers and labor.

**Edwin ZACCAI (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium):**

**Greening the Crisis: The Role of Environmental Factors in its Story and Aftermath**

Abstract: Among the features of 2009, coexisting with the economic crisis and its hard-sought "remedies," no doubt that the relatively strong presence of "green" issues within the discourses, the media, and the policies has been remarkable. But what are the relations between these two topics? To deal with this question, this paper plans to assess the influence of environmental factors (in particular climate change policies and the role of the energy prices) in the recent economic crisis and its aftermath. It focuses on Western countries, though some conclusions are also made for Southern countries. The paper is divided in three topics. 1) The role of environmental factors among the characteristics of the crisis; 2) Their inclusion within strategies elaborated in order to overcome the crisis and the social effects of these strategies; 3) A prospective approach on social outcomes, especially for low-income categories, from strong climate policies (or high energy prices). For each of these three steps, we articulate policy and social observations with the analysis of discourses. We use empirical research, either specific to our topic or coming from the literature, and formulate general conclusions in order to assess the degree of shaping the crisis by environmental issues. In this context, we have to ask how low-income categories of the population will face more drastic drivers set in order to enhance their "energy efficiency." These drivers include higher energy prices for heating and transports, and subsidies to homeowners in order to improve buildings, leaving tenants with not many possibilities. The last part of the paper will build on field data from Belgium (focus groups with social workers), analyzing the perception of environmental policies by low-income categories. This part will also use a recent review of the literature on the relations between climate mitigation policies and social justice in Europe. In the conclusion, we will turn back to the elements suggested by the different analyzes in order to formulate hypothesis about the place of environmental factors in the transformation of (Western) societies in the present crisis.

**Peter FLASCHEL (U Bielefeld, Germany) and Sigrid LUCHTENBERG (U Duisburg, Germany):**

**Stabilizing Unsustainable Capitalist Societies towards New Social Structures of Accumulation in a Globalized World**

**Discussant:** Willfried SPOHN (U Goettingen, Germany) <Willfried.Spohn@sowi.uni-goettingen.de>

Distributed Paper:

**Valentine M. MOGHADAM (Purdue U, USA):**

**Women and Economic Crisis Revisited**

## **25. Capitalism and Crisis: Wither Its Future**

Joint Session of RC07 Futures Research, RC10 Participation, Organizational Democracy and Self-Management, RC36 Alienation Theory and Research, RC48 Social Movements, Collective Action and Social Change, and RC51 Sociocybernetics

**Wednesday 17:45-19:45, Handels Aula**

**Chair:** Marty PROSANO (Missouri State U, USA)

**Presenters:****Lauren LANGMAN (Loyola U, USA):****Socialism or Barbarism Revisited: Mobilization after the Meltdown****Jan NEDERVEEN PIETERSE (UCSB, USA):****Cultures of Crisis****Barry SMART (U Portsmouth, UK):****On the Prospects for another 'Great Transformation'****David SCHWEIKERT (Loyola U, USA):****After the Crisis: What are the Alternatives?**

Discussant: Craig CALHOUN (NYU/SSRC, USA)

## 26. Social Change and the Mitigation of Climate Change: Future Scenarios

Integrative Session of RC07 Futures Research, RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology and RC24 Environment and Society

**Tuesday, July 13, 8:30-10:30 at Svenska Mässan Congress Hall**

**Organizers:** Jeffrey Broadbent (Coordinator, U Minnesota, USA) <broad001@umn.edu>  
 Jaime Jiménez (UNAM, Mexico) <jjimenes@servidor.unam.mx>  
 Raymond MURPHY (U Ottawa, Canada) <Raymond.Murphy@uottawa.ca>  
 Markus S. SCHULZ (UIUC, USA) <isarc07@gmail.com>

**Presenters:****Jeff BROADBENT (U Minnesota, USA):****Introduction: Future Scenarios of Climate Change**

**Abstract:** The task of reducing global atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases presents humanity with an unprecedented challenge and opportunity. It will require not only technological innovation, but historically unprecedented levels of global cooperation. Over the next decades, will increasing climate disasters impel humanity into a collective fight against climate change, or into "adaptation apartheid" (Bishop Tutu)—an ultimately futile war against each other? Can we learn to govern earth systems and to steer our "Spaceship Earth" in a sustainable direction? The papers in this panel offer different approaches to understanding the social factors affecting our response to this profound issue.

**Riley E. DUNLAP (Oklahoma State U, USA):****Climate Change Denial: An Overview**

**Abstract:** Climate change denial began in the US, where it has been a powerful force opposing climate policies for over two decades, and has increasingly spread to other nations—particularly the UK, Canada and Australia. This paper examines the major actors involved in climate change denial (the fossil fuels industry, conservative foundations and think tanks, contrarian scientists, conservative media and conservative politicians) and their inter-relations. It also examines the primary strategy of "manufacturing uncertainty," adapted from the battle against tobacco regulations, and more recent direct assaults on climate science and scientists.



**Bradley C. PARKS (USA) and J. Timmons ROBERTS (Brown U, USA):**

**Climate Change, Social Theory and Justice**

Abstract: This paper seeks to answer why North–South climate negotiations have gone on for decades without producing any substantial results. To address this question, we revisit and seek to integrate insights from several disparate theories, including structuralism (new and old), world systems theory, rational choice institutionalism, and social constructivism. We argue that the lack of convergence on climate grew almost inevitably from our starkly unequal world, which has created and perpetuated highly divergent ways of thinking (worldviews and causal beliefs) and promoted particularistic notions of fairness (principled beliefs). We attempt to integrate structural insights about global inequality with the micro-motives of rational choice institutionalism. The structuralist insight that ‘unchecked inequality undermines cooperation’ suggests climate negotiations must be broadened to include a range of seemingly unrelated development issues such as trade, investment, debt, and intellectual property rights agreements. We conclude by reviewing the work of some ‘norm entrepreneurs’ bringing justice issues into climate negotiations and explore how these insights might influence ‘burden sharing’ discussions in the post-Kyoto world, where development is constrained by climate change.

**Czarina SALOMA-AKPEDONU (Ateneo U, Philippines):**

**Traditional Technology in an Urban Environment: Climate Change and Tropical Design**

Abstract: In tropical mega cities such as Metro Manila, substantial greenhouse gas emissions originate from the cooling, lighting, and operation of buildings, while traditional design principles have largely been forgotten or ignored since the end of the Second World War. This massive technological shift, part of a cultural change triggered by the unreflexive copying of western models inappropriate to the tropical climate, created a vicious cycle. Inappropriate design and construction technologies and neglect of public mass transport, among others, gradually led to an increasingly dismal environment; the dismal environment, in turn, led to increased consumption of inappropriate technologies and escape strategies which then contribute to the worsening of the already dismal environment. Tropical design principles, which embody the scientific ingenuity of our forebears, extensively apply principles of passive cooling and lighting, wind direction, sunshading, cross-ventilation, material selection and other design and construction details. Today environmental hazards accompanying massive social and cultural changes pose severe limits to the application of these principles. For these traditional design principles to be viable again in a 21<sup>st</sup> century environment, they have to be combined with contemporary modern technologies. These concerns and possibilities will be discussed in this paper.

**Timothy W. LUKE (Virginia Tech, USA):**

**The Climate Change Imaginary**

Abstract: Climate change is represented as an increasingly conventionalized a cluster of signs, symbols, and stories. Typically, this symbolic formation gets cast in direct presentations of how greenhouse gases are disrupting Nature and its environments. Yet, the essentially contested quality of this imaginary, and its conflicting characteristics, force one to re-examine how mediated, constructed, and rhetorical these depictions are. Such climate change aesthetic constructs are a risky art in which images can be illusion, ideology, and invention as well as factual and functional scientific findings. To examine these tendencies, this preliminary study probes some of the applied aesthetic practices used to imagine climate change in both polemics and politics. Rather than being simple presentations of Nature as such, these efforts are often complex representations of social forces with political agendas. Yet, the presentations of them as well as the reactions to them leave one seeing how much the images come to serve many purposes: discredit or validate the emerging sciences of modeling, monitoring and managing climate change; legitimize or forestall on-going debates about climate change and its causes; or,



aestheticize or paralyze thinking about global warming as the sheer immensity, root uncertainty, and clear complexity of taking any action grips both the elites and publics. These qualities in the debate make it necessary to reconsider the characteristics of the climate change imaginary in current global political struggles to halt rapid climate change.

## **27. Sociological Challenges to Development, Inequality, Recognition and Environmental Degradation in the Global South**

Integrative Session of RC07 Futures Research, RC21 Regional and Urban Development, Sociedade Brasileira de Sociologia (Brazilian Society of Sociology, SBS), Indian Sociological Society (ISS), and South African Sociological Association (SASA)

**Thursday, July 15, 8:30-10:45 at Svenska Mässan, Hall F4**

**Organizers:** Celi SCALON (BSS, Brazil)  
Markus S. SCHULZ (RC07, USA)  
Wilson AKPAN (SASA, South Africa)  
Ishwar MODI (ISS, India)  
Kuniko FUJITA (RC21, Japan)

**Presenters:**

**Celi SCALON (SBS, Brazil):**

**Perceptions of Inequality and Social Justice:**

**The Unavoidable Relation to Development and Recognition**

Abstract: Many studies have addressed the high level of inequality in Brazil and its consequences for social relations. Most of them analyze objective dimensions related to the acquired and/or ascribed characteristics of the population. However, we know very little about the perception that Brazilians have about inequality, admittedly one of the defining traits of the country. Do Brazilians see their country as unequal? Which factors or individual characteristics are seen as determinants of income inequalities? Are they perceived as fair or unfair? Those questions can only be answered by understanding how our society produced cultural values that legitimise inequality and allow the population to come to terms with one of the highest levels of income disparity in the world. To understand the perception and values towards Inequality and social justice we analyze survey data and focus groups. The results of those researches allow us to raise some interesting hypothesis about tolerance towards income inequality, perception of fairness and the causes of income differences, past and future mobility and perception thereof, opinion about policies for reducing inequality and the role of Government. Regardless the clear and massive perception among Brazilian population of existing income inequality, there is a normative and legitimating discourse that explains tolerance towards inequality and the dumping of the resolution of this issue to the state. And we will focus on its relation to the idea of Development and Recognition of minority groups.

**Wilson AKPAN (SASA, South Africa):**

**Unequal Rights? The Promise, Prospects and Contradictions of Rights-based Development**

Abstract: This paper explores the promise, prospects and contradictions of rights-based, natural resource-engendered development. The paper draws on empirical evidence from an ethnographic study conducted in 2009 in two mining communities in South Africa's North West Province—Royal



Bafokeng and Bakgatla Ba Kgafela. The two communities are among the few traditional authorities in the country that receive royalties directly from (mainly platinum) mining corporations operating on their land. They, therefore, enjoy a relatively high degree of control of local mineral resources. However, questions remain regarding the character of “community control” and the exercise of community resource rights. Does it necessarily translate to equity? How do different segments of the community exercise “control”? The paper highlights how a strong code of traditional governance in the two communities creates a system of “unequal rights” in the participation process. In particular, the paper draws attention to a vibrant community development arena, but one in which the main architects of community development and key beneficiaries of platinum wealth—and the targets of grassroots anger—appear to be the same small group within each community.

**Ishwar MODI (ISS, India):**

**Challenges to Development, Inequality, Injustice and Environmental Degradation in India**

**Owen CRANKSHAW (Capetown, RC21) and Deborah GOETZ (RC21):**

**Racial Inequality and Labor Market Spatial Mismatch Theory: A Realist View**

Abstract: The spatial mismatch hypothesis argues that low-skilled black residents, who are restricted to excluded ghettos, have been isolated from the knowledge of job opportunities by the sub-urbanization of jobs. The result of this emerging spatial mismatch is higher rates of unemployment among low-skilled black workers. Research on this question usually relies on a ‘deductive’ methodology in which causal mechanisms are proposed and then tested using sample surveys. The logic of this argument follows the ‘covering law’ model of explanation in which statistical associations are established between independent and dependent variables. We argue that this type of explanation has the characteristics of a ‘black box’ explanation because it ignores the social mechanisms that may cause certain outcomes. As an alternative, we propose a ‘realist’ approach to the study of the labor market spatial mismatch that uses a ‘retroductive’ methodology to discover causal mechanisms. By using this approach, we have established that the residents of excluded ghettos in Cape Town are not isolated from information on the suburban job market. Through a variety of workplace mechanisms, they create a wide range of social networks that extend well beyond the confines of their neighbors and reach into networks of both employers and colleagues.

**Markus S. SCHULZ (RC07):**

**Future Moves and the Trenches of Development**

Abstract: Global development brought dazzling progress in many fields but instead of ending or alleviating, it is often rather re-shaping and exacerbating persistent inequalities while escalating environmental threats. This paper explores future moves to overcome this predicament. Combining empirical and theoretical analysis, it discusses current trends by comparing quantitative data on global and national levels and by drawing on recent advances in democratic theory, social movement research, the philosophy of recognition, and futures studies. The proposed transnational approach examines capital flows and elite mobility but also migration, mediation, and mobilization from the grassroots. The paper advocates a future-oriented perspective that does not stop at diagnoses of past presents but engages with alternative imaginaries and projects of subaltern actors, emerging ranges of possible, probable, and preferable scenarios, and their pre-conditioning dynamics.



# Practical Information

**Congress Registration:** ISA required all active participants to pre-register through their website: [http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/congress\\_registration.htm](http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/congress_registration.htm). Fees were discounted for ISA members and structured according to country category. For any registration queries or receipts, please contact *Congrex Sweden AB* per email <[isa2010@congrex.com](mailto:isa2010@congrex.com)> or fax: +46 31 708 60 25.

**CAS Abstracts Database:** Authors were asked to submit a copy of their accepted abstract to *Cambridge Sociological Abstracts (CAS)* for inclusion in a printed congress catalogue and searchable database: <http://editweb101v.csa.com/socioabs/submit.php>. If you have not done so, check with CAS about possibilities to have your abstract included in a later addendum.

**Papers Due:** Session Chair(s) determine the due date and format. If nothing else is specified, then papers should be emailed in a common format to the session chair(s) and discussant(s) by **June 30, 2010**.

**Presentation Format:** Unless specified otherwise by the Chair of your session and depending on the number of participants in your session, you may expect to have approximately 15-20 minutes time for your presentation. Approximately thirty minutes of a session are typically reserved for common discussion/Q&A. This means that papers are usually not read in their entirety but rather summarized. The rooms for all sessions, except the Roundtables Session, are said to be equipped with a beamer and laptop (PC) for PowerPoint presentations in 4x3 screen format (but no Internet connection). PowerPoint users are asked to bring a USB-compatible memory stick or CD and upload their slides a few minutes before their session begins. If an overhead projector is needed please contact <[isa2010@congrex.com](mailto:isa2010@congrex.com)>. Registered participants who are unable to present in person may have their paper included in the program as a 'distributed paper'.

**Publication:** RC07 is planning one or more publications of selected congress papers on the general theme of 'Future Moves' as well as substantive areas such as globalization, crisis, terror, environment, movements, media, technology, and alternative imagination. Interested authors should send their papers no later than **August 6, 2010** to [isarc07gothenburg@gmail.com](mailto:isarc07gothenburg@gmail.com). You are thus encouraged to incorporate insights from the feedback to your presentation. Please format your paper in either Word or RTF and make sure to omit all identifying information for the peer review process. Please include a cover-page with paper title and the abstract. You may consult the Sage journal guidelines for further formatting questions and *The Chicago Manual of Style* for grammar. Consistent use of US or UK English is equally acceptable. Earlier submissions and inquiries are welcome.

**Internet access** shall be available in the foyer of the Congress Hall at The Swedish Exhibition & Congress Centre (*Svenska Mässan*).

**Travel:** For airline discounts see [http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/support\\_wording.htm](http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/support_wording.htm). Note that Gothenburg has two major airports, the Göteborg Landvetter Airport (GOT, 25km to the East) and Göteborg City Airport (GSE, 15km North-West from the centre). Both airports are well connected to the city by bus (ca. 20-30 min; ≈US\$7-12). There seems to be some competition, so you may wish to compare air fares for both.

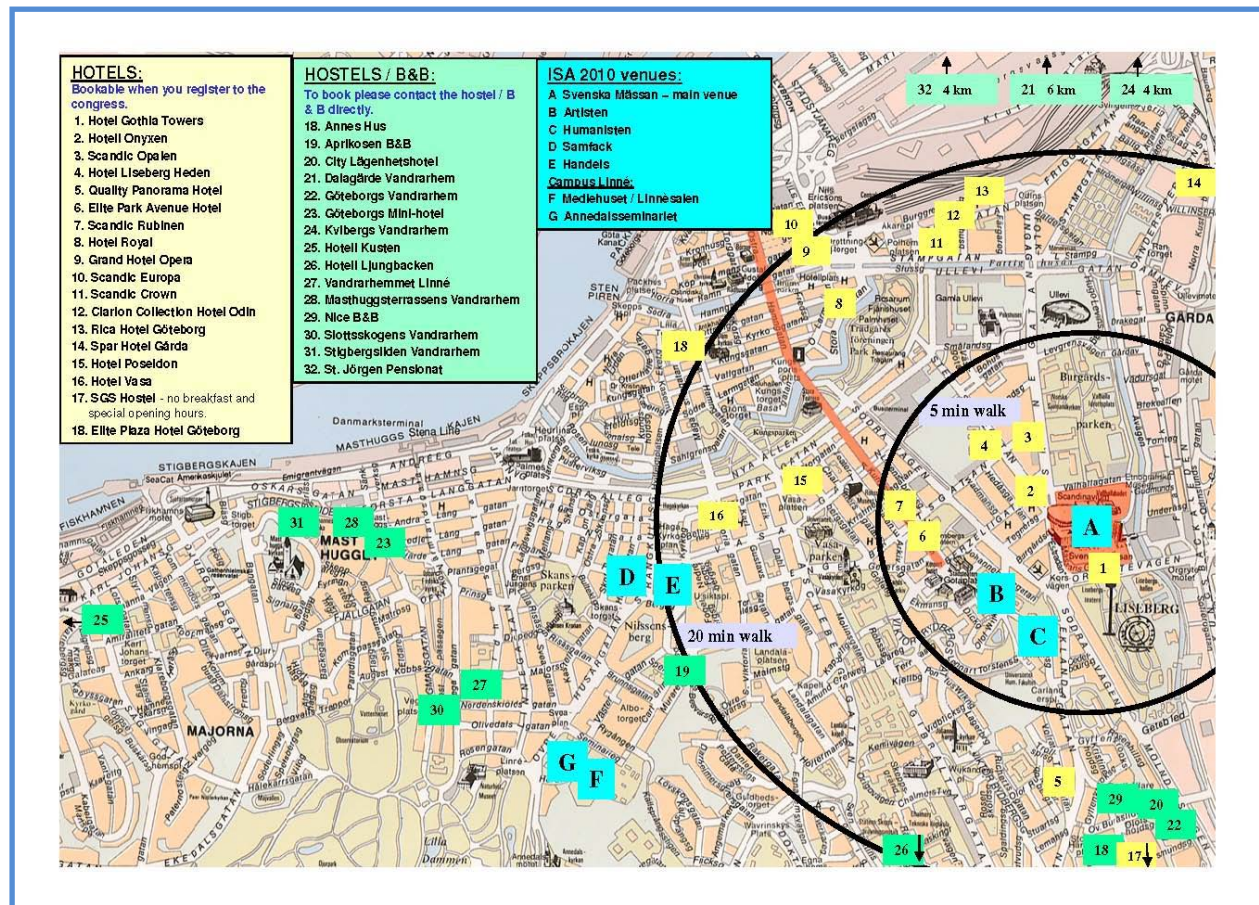


**Accommodation:** An extended range of choices can be booked directly via the website: [http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/congress\\_accommodation.htm](http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/congress_accommodation.htm). However, note that the rates there may or may not be the best available. Comparisons with commercial sites such as Kayak, Tripadvisor, Expedia, Travelocity, 1800Hotelscom, or direct booking options may be advisable. Cost is of course also affected by currency fluctuations.

**Climate:** Gothenburg has an Oceanic climate that is relatively mild when considering its Northern latitude. July is mostly sunny and dry with only moderate precipitation. July temperatures average with lows of 13 and highs of 20 degrees Celsius (55 to 68 Fahrenheit), though it could also go up to 30 degrees Celsius (86 Fahrenheit).

**Visa:** Sweden is one of the twenty-five signatory-states of the Schengen agreement. Nationals from the Schengen zone do not need a visa; nationals from the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, Australia, Israel and the United States can currently remain in Sweden as tourists for 90 days without a visa. Others may be forced to obtain a visa. Keep in mind that current regulations can change. You can obtain further information from the Swedish embassy and consulates in your country. More information has been posted at: <http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.jsp>.

**Further travel information:** One useful multilingual website to search for travel-related information seems to be Gothenburg official tourism site at URL: <http://www.goteborg.com>.



## Congress Venues and How to Get There

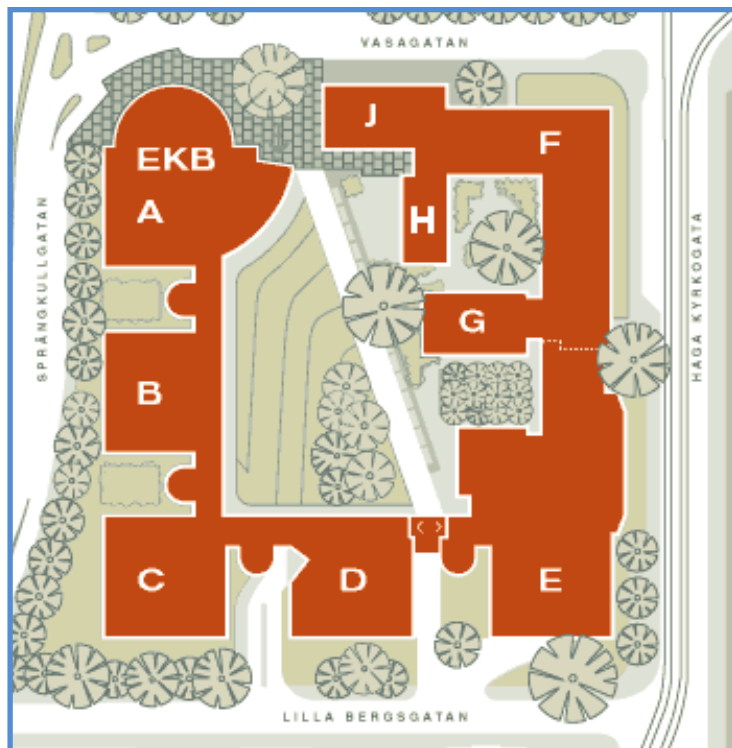
The congress takes place in several major venues in the center of Gothenburg. We expect that most of regular sessions will take place at **Handels**, the huge modern building complex of the University of Gothenburg's School of Business, Economics and Law, located on the street Vasagatan 1. Gothenburg's Congress Center, called **Svenska Mässan** (or The Swedish Exhibition & Congress Centre) is expected to



**Handels: Aerial view**

### Handels: Floor Plan

Our main location B22 is in the B-building, 2nd floor.



be the venue for the opening ceremonies, the Roundtables, and some of the joint sessions. It is approx. 20-25 minutes walking distance between **Handels** and **Svenska Mässan** (Congress Centre). On the way are plenty of cafés and restaurants. Alternatively, you can use public transport: Tram 2 takes 13 minutes from tram stop *Korsvägen* (direction *Högsbotorp*) to stop *Handelshögskolan*, which is 50-100 meters from the **Handels** and **Samfak**. (Note: Tram or bus tickets are not available from the conductor, but at stores such as *Pressbyrån* or *7-Eleven*.)

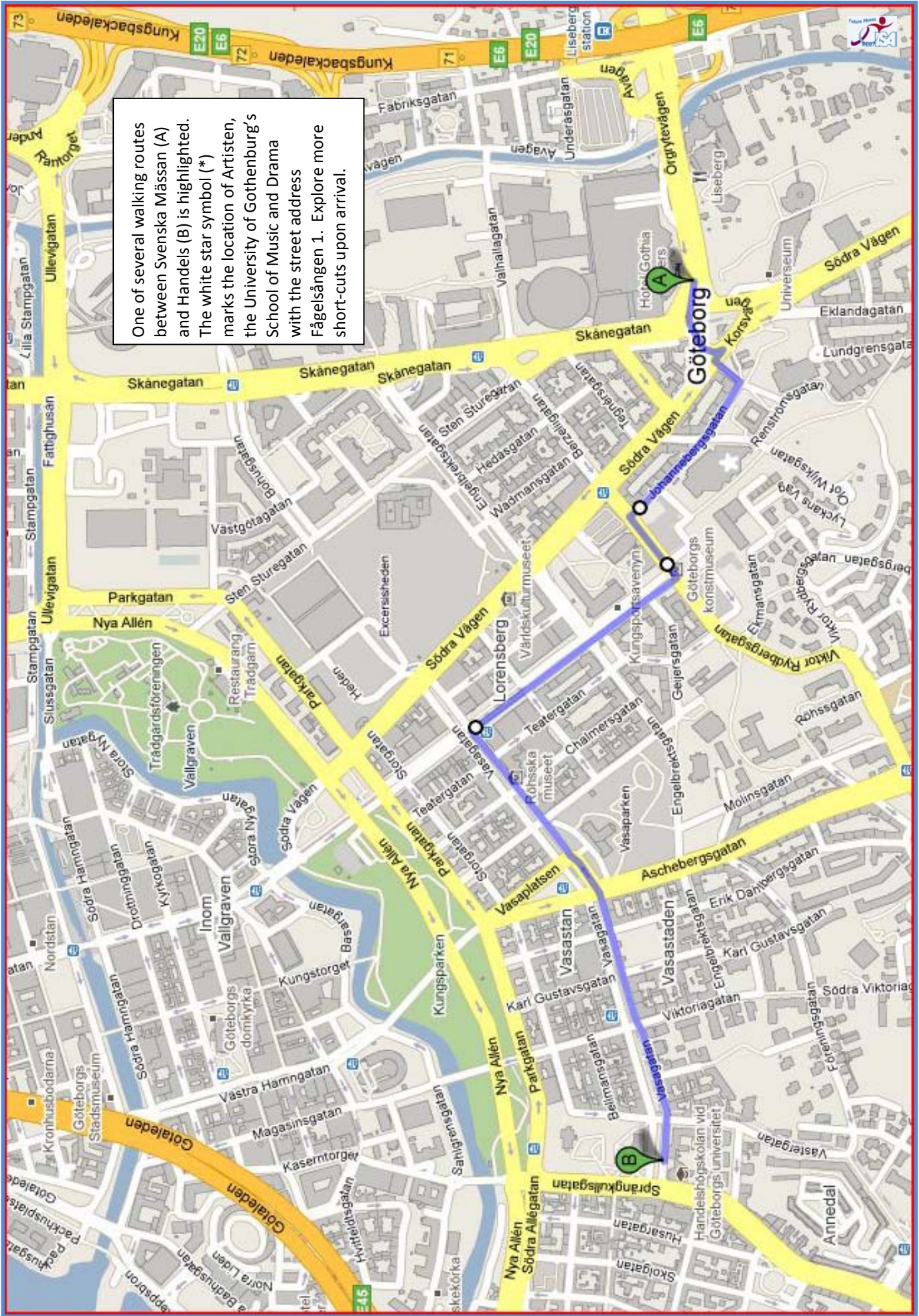


### Svenska Mässan

The Congress Centre has several entrances. ISA program material and information on additional venues will be available in the registration area.

An official Congress Party will be held at the **Trädgår'n** Restaurant on *Nya Allén* next to the *Trädgård Park*, about 20 minutes walk from Handels or the Congress Center. See map on the following page and visit also <http://www.profilrestauranger.se/tradgarn/>.

One of several walking routes between Svenska Mässan (A) and Handels (B) is highlighted. The white star symbol (\*) marks the location of Artisten, the University of Gothenburg's School of Music and Drama Fågelsången 1. Explore more short-cuts upon arrival.





# International Sociological Association Research Committee on Futures Research (ISA-RC07)

President: Markus S. Schulz <isarc07@gmail.com>

Secretary-Treasurer: Hiro Toyota <htoyota@yahoo.com>

## RC07

### Membership Form

This form is for ISA members who wish to become also members of RC07. Please **send the completed form** directly to the ISA secretariat per **email: isa@isa-sociology.org** or **fax: +34-913 524 945** or **postal mail to:**

**ISA, Facultad de Ciencias Políticas y Sociología, Universidad Complutense, 28223 Madrid, SPAIN**

In case you are not yet a member of ISA, then please use the general form to join both ISA and RC07 available at:  
<[http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb\\_i/index.htm](http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb_i/index.htm)>.

You have also the option to sign up online via ISA's secure site at: <<https://secured.com/~f3641/formisa.htm>>.

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Given Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

RC07 membership fees cover a period of four calendar years and are available in three categories. Please select one:

- Supporter US\$40 (voluntary)
- Regular US\$20
- Discount US\$10 (for students from any country and members residing in a category B/C country, including:  
Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, American Samoa, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Rep, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Costa Rica, Croatia, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Grenada, Hungary, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte, Mexico, Mariana Islands, Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russian Fed., Rwanda, Samoa, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Tome & Principe, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, West Bank & Gaza, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe)

I agree that my postal address may appear in public communications:  Yes  No

I agree that my email address may appear in public communications:  Yes  No

I agree to receive e-mail announcements from the ISA/RC07:  Yes  No

Both this form and your payment must reach ISA Secretariat in order to validate your membership. Cancellation of payment is not possible; ISA reserves the option to adjust the amount charged to correct inadvertent errors.

- International Money Order to be arranged at a post office, Western Union or MoneyGram system.
- Personal cheque or bank drafts in US dollars - drawn on USA bank/branch
- Credit card – Please note: Credit cards will be charged in euro. As a result, local currency fluctuations may occur. 3.5% of the total amount will be added to cover the banking charges.
  - American Express  MasterCard  VISA  EuroCard

Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ Card expiration date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Card Holder (print name as it appears on credit card): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Card Holder: \_\_\_\_\_



## RC07 Timetable-at-a-Glance for Göteborg2010

	08.30-10.30	10.45-12.45	Break	13.45-15.15	15.30-17.30	17.45-19.45	20.00-22.00
<b>Sunday, July 11</b>							
<b>Monday, July 12</b>	8:45-13:00: ISA Presidential I Wievorka, Lee, Calhoun, Castells, Li, Reis, Sassen, Alexander			Parallel Plenaries	<b>01</b> Global-A [Handels B22]	<b>02</b> Global-B [Handels B22]	<b>03</b> Environment [Handels B22]
<b>Tuesday, July 13</b>		<b>04</b> Power/Public/SocExp [Handels B22]		Parallel Plenaries	<b>05</b> Joint RC07/16 Theory [Handels Malmsten]	<b>06</b> Joint RC07/48 Social Movements-A [Handels B22]	<b>09</b> Soc Imagination [Handels B22]
<b>Wednesday, July 14</b>		<b>20</b> Business [Handels B22]	<b>RC07</b> Lunch [tba]	Parallel Plenaries	<b>10</b> Joint RC07/14/23 New Media-A [Handels Volvo]	<b>13</b> Terror-A [Handels B22]	<b>14</b> Terror-B [Handels B22]
<b>Thursday, July 15</b>		<b>15</b> Roundtables [Svenska Mässan F]		Parallel Plenaries	<b>16</b> Joint RC07/23 Tech Futures [Svenska Mässan G1]	<b>24</b> Joint RC09/07/TG02 Crisis [Artisten A 302]	<b>07</b> Joint RC48/07 SocMov-B [Handels Aula]
<b>Friday, July 16</b>		<b>27</b> Integrative Inequality [Svenska Mässan F4]		Parallel Plenaries	<b>17</b> Urban [time tbc] [Handels B22]	<b>12</b> Joint RC07/14 NewMedia-C [HandelsB22]	<b>11</b> Joint RC14/07 NewMedia-B[Handl.Volvo]
<b>Saturday, July 17</b>	9:00-12:00: ISA Presidential III: Crisis Touraine, Cardoso, Archer, Martinelli, Stompka	<b>08</b> Joint RC07/48 SocMov-C [Handels B22]		Parallel Plenaries	<b>21</b> Joint 23/32/07 GenderTech[SvMäss G3]	<b>23</b> Joint RC13/07/23 TechLeisure[SvMias G4]	<b>Congress Party</b> [Trädgår'n]
				<b>13.45-15.45:</b> <b>18</b> Approach. Future [Handels B22]	<b>19</b> Education [Handels B22]		

Session code numbers refer to sequence in this edition of the program and may differ from other versions. Please note that times and locations are subject to possible changes; please double-check later.