



Historical
Sociology

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022



Welcome!

Welcome to our Spring 2022 newsletter!

The pandemic has led to many obstacles and difficulties concerning research collaboration and opportunities to meet and discuss ideas. Given the recent trajectory of the pandemic we are very optimistic that the [XX World Congress of Sociology](#) will proceed in hybrid format next year. So below you will see the call for sessions, which closes on 10 May for integrative sessions and author meets critics sessions, and 31 May for regular RC sessions.

The newsletter also contains news of recent books by RC56 members.

XX ISA World Congress of Sociology



Resurgent Authoritarianism:
*Sociology of New Entanglements of
Religions, Politics, and Economies*

Melbourne, Australia | June 25-July 1, 2023
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
www.isa-sociology.org



Guidelines for applying for integrative sessions can be found in the [Deadlines](#) section of the [conference website](#). Proposals must be submitted by **10 May 2022**. Integrative sessions should connect around a debate on a common theme:

- at least three Research Committees, Working Groups, Thematic Groups
- at least three National Associations (ISA collective members)
- or a combination of any three units

For Authors Meets Critics sections (deadline **10 May 2022**), the criteria for selection includes:

- a book was published not later than 4 years ago
- it has become influential
- authors represent different geographical regions and different languages, gender balance

The call for RC Sessions will open on 2 May and close on **31 May 2022**. The session proposer must submit session's description on-line via Confex platform.

The final list of sessions will be determined by the end of June, after which the call for abstracts will open until **30 September 2022**.

Recent seminars

UNEQUAL EUROPE AT WAR: PLACING UKRAINE, (RE)PLACING EASTERN EUROPE

German Sociological Association roundtable, 13 April 2022 (online)
- in cooperation with ISA RC56 and the ASA Political Economy of the World-Systems Section

Since the beginning of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the notion of "war in the midst of Europe" has dominated media and academic discussions. From the widely disseminated claim that this is the first war in Europe since 1945, which erases the many armed conflicts taking place in the South and the East of Europe in the past few decades, to many Western news channels' repeated use of mislabelled maps of the countries bordering Ukraine, a widespread lack of knowledge of the geopolitical space and social reality immediately affected by the war has been increasingly apparent.

The roundtable took the question of where Western discourses place a war that they can hardly locate on a map as a starting point in order to then deal with the larger questions of how many Europes there are and which one Ukraine is now at the centre of, while war is waging "in the midst of Europe".

What does the war do to shift understandings of Europe and Europeanness, of who belongs and who doesn't? How does that reproduce existing cleavages and does it create others in the process?

Participants:

Olga Plakhotnik (University of Alberta, Canada)
Daria Krivosos (University of Helsinki, Finland)
József Böröcz (Rutgers University, USA)
Ovidiu Țichindeleanu (IDEA Publishing, Cluj/Chisinau, Romania/Moldova)
Steven Seegel (University of Texas, USA)

Organizer/Moderator:

Manuela Boatcă, University of Freiburg, Germany

The roundtable discussion is available at the following links:

Big file:

<https://bwsyncandshare.kit.edu/s/m8KEDAi2JGLLYSX>

Medium size file:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1G1LIZ9Ules4W1EYMNstHyeBVVqiD-VB1/view?usp=sharing>

Please do not share the links on social media, as per request of one of the presenters.

Recent books by RC56 members

Books

Bahl, Eva and Becker, Johannes (eds) (2020) [*Global Processes of Flight and Migration. The Explanatory Power of Case Studies.*](#) Göttingen University Press.

The case studies in this volume illustrate the global dimension of flight and migration movements with a special focus on South-South migration. Thirteen chapters shed light on transcontinental or regional migration processes, as well as on long-term processes of arrival and questions of belonging. Flight and migration are social phenomena. They are embedded in individual, familial and collective histories on the level of nation states, regions, cities or we-groups. They are also closely tied up with changing border regimes and migration policies. The explanatory power of case studies stems from analyzing these complex interrelations. Case studies allow us to look at both “common” and “rare” migration phenomena, and to make systematic comparisons. On the basis of in-depth fieldwork, the authors in this volume challenge dichotomous distinctions between flight and migration, look at changing perspectives during processes of migration, consider those who stay, and counter political and media discourses which assume that Europe, or the Global North in general, is the pivot of international migration.



Million, Angela, Haid, Christian, Castillo Ulloa, Ignacio and Baur, Nina (eds) (2021) [*Spatial Transformations: Kaleidoscopic Perspectives on the Refiguration of Spaces.*](#) Routledge.

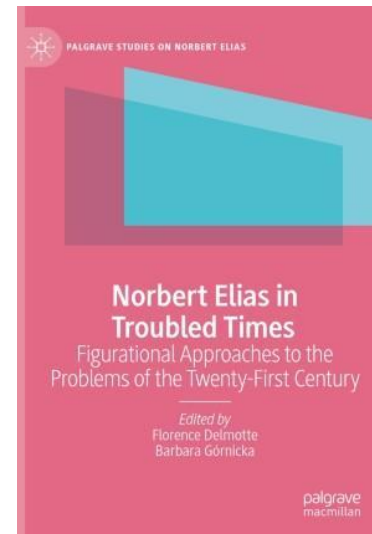
This book examines a variety of subjective spatial experiences and knowledge production practices in order to shed new light on the specifics of contemporary socio-spatial change, driven as it is by inter alia, digitalization, transnationalization, and migration. Considering the ways in which emerging spatial phenomena are conditioned by an increasing interconnectedness, this book asks how spaces are changing as a result of mediatization, increased mobility, globalization, and social dislocation. With attention to questions surrounding the negotiation and (visual) communication of space, it explores the arrangements, spatialities, and materialities that underpin the processes of spatial refiguration by which these changes come about. Bringing together the work of leading scholars from across diverse range disciplines to address questions of socio-spatial transformation, this



volume will appeal to sociologists and geographers, as well as scholars and practitioners of urban planning and architecture.

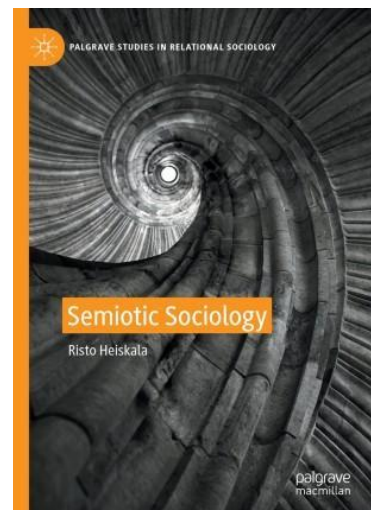
Delmotte, Florence and Górnicka, Barbara (eds) (2021) [*Norbert Elias in Troubled Times: Figurational Approaches to the Problems of the Twenty-First Century*](#). Palgrave.

This edited collection brings together texts that discuss current major issues in our troubled times through the lens of Norbert Elias's sociology. It sheds light on both the contemporary world and some of Elias's most controversial concepts. Through examination of the 'current affairs', political and social contemporary changes, the authors in this collection present new and challenging ways of understanding these social processes and figurations. Ultimately, the objective of the book is to embrace and utilise some of the more polemical aspects of Elias's legacy, such as the exploration of decivilizing processes, decivilizing spurts, and dys-civilization. It investigates to what extent Elias's sociological analyses are still applicable in our studies of the developments that mark our troubled times. It does so through both global and local lenses, theoretically and empirically, and above all, by connecting past, present, and possible futures of all human societies.



Heiskala, Risto (2021) [*Semiotic Sociology*](#). Palgrave.

Semiotic Sociology provides solid ground for cultural analysis in the social sciences by building up a mediation between structuralist semiology (Saussure), pragmatist semiotics (Peirce), and phenomenological sociology (Schutz, Garfinkel, Berger and Luckmann). This is a deviation from the common view that these traditions are seen as mutually exclusive alternatives and thus competitors of each other. The net result of the synthesis is that a new social theory emerges wherein action theories (Weber and rational choice) are based on phenomenological sociology and phenomenological sociology is based on neostructuralist semiotics, which is a synthesis of the Saussurean and the Peircean traditions of understanding habits of interpretation and interaction. The core issues of social research are then addressed on these grounds. The topics covered include the economy/society relationship, power, gender, modernity, institutionalization, the canon of current social theory including micro/macro and agency/structure relations, and the grounds of social criticism.



Jones, Paul K. (2020) [Critical Theory and Demagogic Populism](#). Manchester University Press.

Populism is a powerful force today, but its full scope has eluded the analytical tools of both orthodox and heterodox 'populism studies'. This book provides a valuable alternative perspective. It reconstructs in detail for the first time the sociological analyses of US demagogues by members of the Frankfurt School and compares these with contemporary approaches. Modern demagoguery emerges as a key under-researched feature of populism, since populist movements, whether 'left' or 'right', are highly susceptible to 'demagogic capture'. The book also details the culture industry's populist contradictions - including its role as an incubator of modern demagogues - from the 1930s through to today's social media and 'Trumpian psychotechnics'.

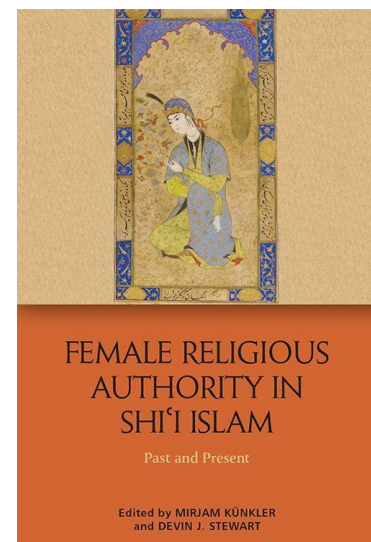
Featuring a previously unpublished text by Adorno on modern demagoguery as an appendix, it will be of interest to researchers and students in critical theory, sociology, politics, German studies, philosophy and history of ideas, as well as all those concerned about the rise of demagogic populism today.



Künkler, Mirjam and Stewart, Devin J. (eds) (2021) [Female Religious Authority in Shi'i Islam: Past and Present](#). Edinburgh University Press.

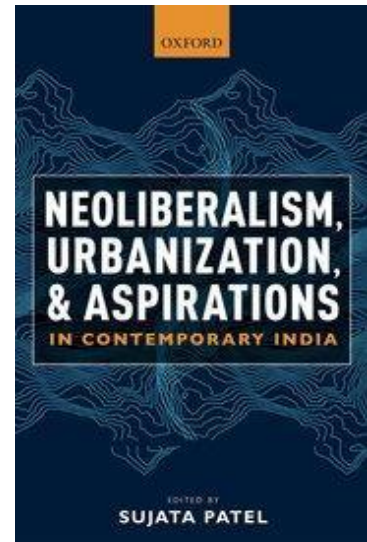
Islamic religious authority is conventionally understood to be an exclusively male purview. Yet when dissected into its various manifestations – leading prayer, preaching, issuing fatwas, transmitting hadith, judging in court, teaching law, theology, and other Islamic sciences and generally shaping the Islamic scholarly tradition – nuances emerge that hint at the presence of women in the performance of some of these functions.

This collection of case studies, covering the period from classical Islam to the present, and taken from across the Shi'i Islamic world, reflects on the roles that women have played in exercising religious authority across time and space. Comparative reflection on the case studies allows for the formulation of hypotheses regarding the conditions and developments – whether theological, jurisprudential, social, economic, or political – that enhanced or stifled the flourishing of female religious authority in Shi'i Islam.



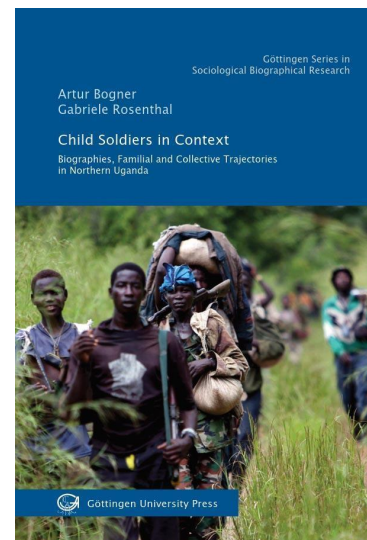
Patel, Sujata (ed) (2022) [*Neoliberalism, Urbanization and Aspirations in Contemporary India*](#). Oxford University Press.

This volume brings together scholarship from different disciplines on the theme of neoliberalism. Contemporary neoliberal economic policy, it argues, has increased inequalities and exclusions while providing opportunities to the upper sections of the society. In turn it has also created new risks and challenges to everyday lives of the lower and middle classes of the country. While the focus of the volume is on the way urbanization and lower-class aspirations have been harnessed for the neoliberal project, there are also essays on the way social media has impacted democracy and as well on the impact of gendered demographic dividend on the economy. The volume also includes a set of papers that analyses the implications of neoliberalism on the State of Uttar Pradesh. The authors in this volume argue that the changes inaugurated by neoliberalism challenge them to re-think old perspectives on development popular among social scientists with most asserting a need to construct new interdisciplinary perspectives to narrate analytically these contemporary changes.



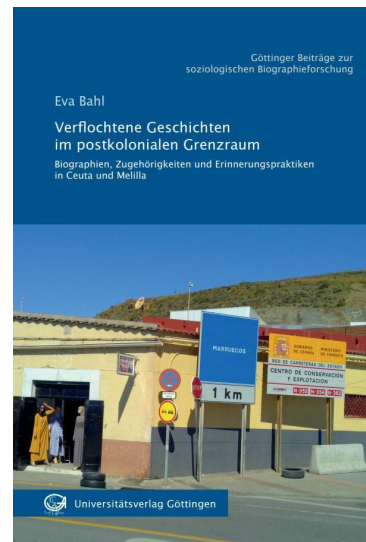
Bogner, Artur and Rosenthal, Gabriele (2022) [*Child Soldiers in Context: Biographies, Familial and Collective Trajectories in Northern Uganda*](#). Göttingen University Press.

Long before “IS” and “Boko Haram”, the messianic “Lord’s Resistance Army” (LRA) in Uganda was considered as one of the most brutal rebel groups in Africa, or in the world, and as one which clearly specialized in the abduction, “recruitment” and deployment of children and adolescents as combatants. This book presents the results of a research project on former child soldiers and rebels in northern Uganda and their “reintegration” into society after their return to civilian life. The authors investigate their biographies and the social figurations or relationships between them and members of the civilian population that emerged following their return, not least in their families of origin, and show which conditions facilitate or hinder their “(re)integration” into civilian life. The discussion also shows what distinguishes them from former members of rebel groups in the neighbouring region of West Nile, in respect of their history and how they were recruited, as well as in their present situation and social position.



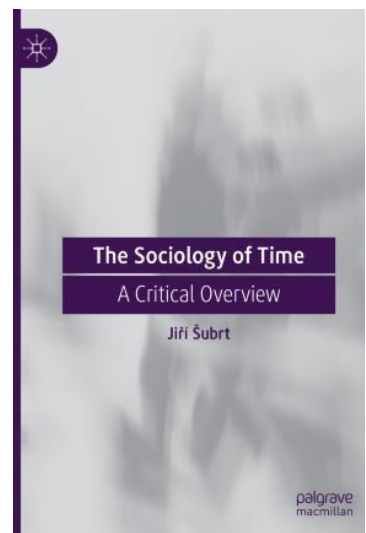
Bahl, Eva (2021) [Verflochtene Geschichten im postkolonialen Grenzraum: Biographien, Zugehörigkeiten und Erinnerungspraktiken in Ceuta und Melilla](#). Göttingen University Press.

All over the world, borders are places of separation, distinction and violence on the one hand, and of encounter, mobility and everyday practices on the other. This is particularly true of the external borders of the European Union. When Spain joined the European Communities in 1986, Ceuta and Melilla, two cities in North Africa, became such an external border and the six-metre-high fences surrounding them became a symbol of “Fortress Europe”. But what does this mean for the people who live in such a place? How do they experience everyday life in a “caged city”, and how do they interpret their experiences? This sociological study focuses on figurations between old-established groupings in the border space between Spain and Morocco, and reconstructs a post-colonial border space in the light of transformation processes and slowly changing power balances, in which belongings and views of history are constantly being renegotiated. Different actors in the border space are studied from the perspective of figurational sociology, the sociology of memory and biographical research. Four detailed case analyses serve to illustrate the complexity of local social realities. These are embedded in historical and present-day social constellations in this border space between Spain and Morocco, and it is made clear that constructions of belonging and power relations in Ceuta and Melilla can only be understood in the context of colonial and post-colonial processes and events.



Šubrt, Jiří (2021) [The Sociology of Time: A Critical Overview](#). Palgrave.

In a critical, comparative study of the sociological literature, this book explores the term “time,” and the various interconnections between time and a broad cluster of topics that create a conceptual labyrinth. Various understandings of time manifest themselves in the context of many individual social problems—there is no single vision in sociology of how to grasp time and address within social theory. This book, therefore, attempts to define an approach to the concept of time and its associated terms (duration, temporality, acceleration, compression, temporal structures, change, historical consciousness, and others). The volume is guided by a critical engagement with three main questions: a) the formation of human understanding of time; b) the functioning of temporal structures at different levels of social reality; c) the role and place of time in general sociological theory.



Šubrt, Jiří (2020) [*The Systemic Approach in Sociology and Niklas Luhmann: Expectations, Discussions, Doubts.*](#) Emerald.

This book is a comprehensive overview of the theoretical discussion of one of most important conceptions in sociology at the end of 20th century - the theory of social systems. The spotlight of this book falls on the work of Niklas Luhmann and his holistic approach. Current modern society is, for Luhmann, a functionally differentiated society, which means that a number of specialized societal sub-systems (politics, economics, religion, law, science, art etc) have formed.

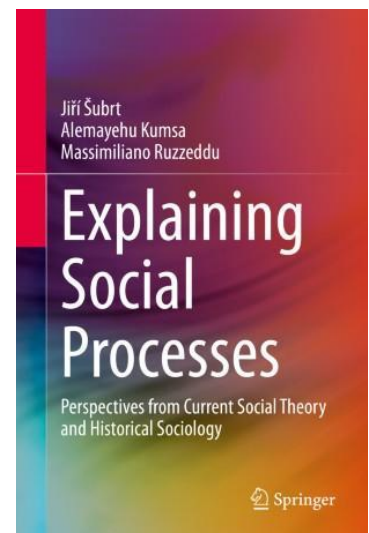
Each system is based on its own type of communication led by its own generalized communicative media. Luhmann controversially depicts modern society as a plurality of many societal subsystems operating without a top and without a coordinating and managing centre. This book weighs the strong and weak features of the systemic approach in sociology and discusses ways to rethink it.



THE SYSTEMIC APPROACH
IN SOCIOLOGY AND
NIKLAS LUHMANN:
EXPECTATIONS,
DISCUSSIONS, DOUBTS
JIŘÍ ŠUBRT

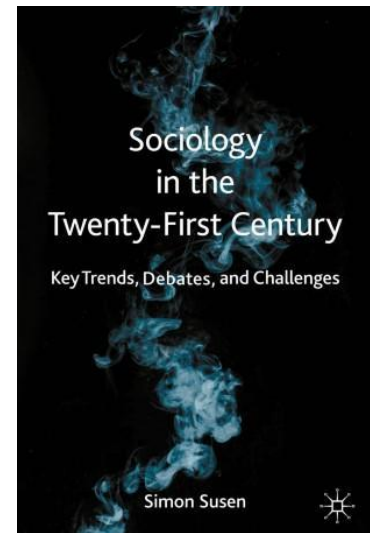
Šubrt, Jiří, Kumsa, Alemayehu and Ruzzeddu, Massimiliano (eds) (2020) [*Explaining Social Processes: Perspectives from Current Social Theory and Historical Sociology.*](#) Springer.

This textbook considers understanding social processes to be the main task of sociology. From this perspective its authors demonstrate and explain problems which they consider to be crucial for contemporary social science. These are topics of a theoretical and epistemological nature, which are nevertheless closely connected with social development and issues arising from it. The book moves from the more general theoretical questions and dilemmas raised by key social thinkers, such as those connected with the concepts of actor, agency, institutions, structures and systems. It then leads to theoretical reflections on long-term developmental processes associated with the phenomena of power and life in current societies, including globalization, identities, migration, etc. It provides a comprehensive approach to the essential questions of sociology. Lucidly written and including the latest sociological perspectives, this book will find wide appeal among social science students and researchers, and is also for the socially aware general reader.



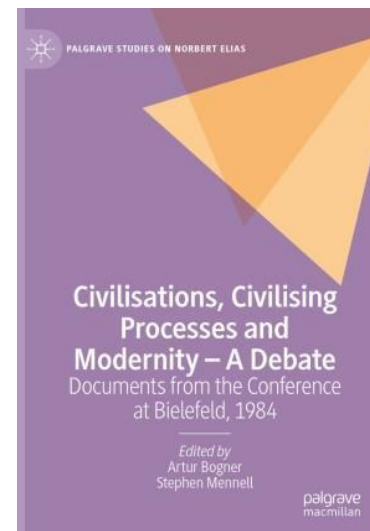
Susen, Simon (2020) [*Sociology in the Twenty-First Century Key Trends, Debates, and Challenges*](#). Palgrave.

This book examines key trends, debates, and challenges in twenty-first-century sociology. To this end, it focuses on significant issues surrounding the nature of sociology ('What is sociology?'), the history of sociology ('How has sociology evolved?'), and the study of sociology ('How can or should we make sense of sociology?'). These issues have been, and will continue to be, essential to the creation of conceptually informed, methodologically rigorous, and empirically substantiated research programmes in the discipline. Over the past years, however, there have been numerous disputes and controversies concerning the future of sociology. Particularly important in this respect are recent and ongoing discussions on the possibilities of developing new – and, arguably, post-classical – forms of sociology. The central assumption underlying most of these projects is the contention that a comprehensive analysis of the principal challenges faced by global society requires the construction of a sociology capable of accounting for the interconnectedness of social actors and social structures across time and space. This book provides a cutting-edge overview of crucial past, present, and possible future trends, debates, and challenges shaping the pursuit of sociological inquiry.



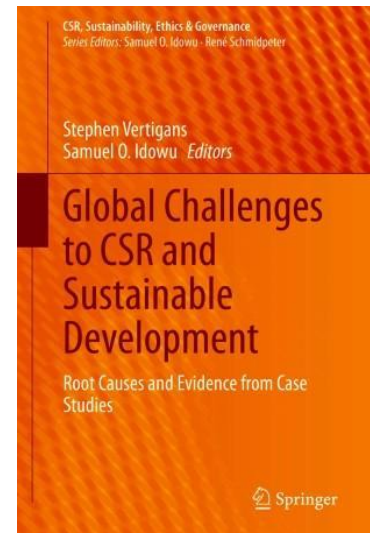
Bogner, Artur and Mennell, Stephen (eds) (2022) [*Civilisations, Civilising Processes and Modernity – A Debate: Documents from the Conference at Bielefeld, 1984*](#). Palgrave.

In 1984, the celebrated sociologist and historian Norbert Elias convened a major conference on 'Civilisations and civilising processes' at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research (University of Bielefeld). Participants included the most distinguished and influential scholars in historical sociology and world history. This book will make available, for the first time in one place, the papers presented by the speakers and, even more interestingly, the transcripts of discussions at the symposium. This conference brought together eminent and internationally reputed scholars of macro-history and historical sociology including Johann P. Arnason, Elias, Hans-Dieter Evers, Johan Goudsblom, Keith Hopkins, William H. McNeill, and Immanuel Wallerstein. This highly informative encounter between various leading scholars of humanity's global social history has never before been published, although it was completely recorded on paper and in tape recordings. Its publication in one volume should be an important event for all students of the long-term structural transformations of humanity.



Vertigans, Stephen and Idowu, Samuel O. (eds) (2021) [*Global Challenges to CSR and Sustainable Development: Root Causes and Evidence from Case Studies*](#). Springer.

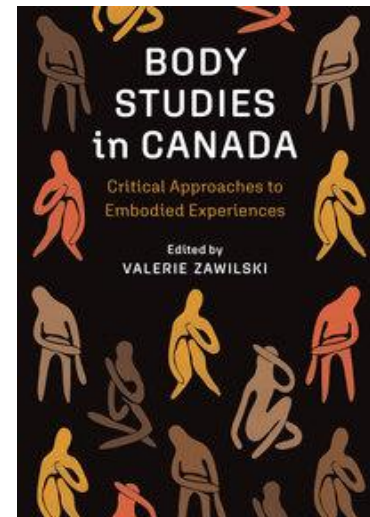
This book examines and analyzes the challenges programmes for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and sustainable development are facing in global management practice. It looks at the dichotomy of a general and popular demand for responsible and resilient management, and the counterplayers that impact the positive effect of such efforts. The book assembles latest research looking at the root causes for this opposition, and new case studies that showcase the dilemma and possible solutions to overcome it. Overall, the book juxtaposes short-termism within CSR programmes and longer-term sustainable development, mis-allocation of resources and failed promises associated with CSR, and sketches pathways how CSR and sustainable development can be directed towards the most pressing issues.



Zawilski, Valerie (ed) (2021) [*Body Studies in Canada: Critical Approaches to Embodied Experiences*](#). Canadian Scholars.

How do we perceive ourselves and our bodies in relation to our physical, geographical, social, cultural, political, psychological, and spiritual environments? *Body Studies in Canada* uses intersectional methodological and theoretical frameworks to discuss the political and socio-historical discourses that shape body studies in Canadian society.

This edited volume delves into a variety of timely topics including postcolonial “othering” of the body; social discourses around healthy and un-healthy bodies; intersections of aging, gender, race, class, and size; the fitness industries’ promotion of the “ideal” body; the gendering of bodywork symbols and expressions in carceral environments; and self-awareness of “the body” in social and digital media. In thirteen chapters, editor Valerie Zawilski brings together scholars from a wide variety of disciplines and expertise to provide an interdisciplinary perspective on how the body interacts reflexively with society. This collection is a foundational text for sociology of the body and body studies courses, as well as gender studies, political science, and health studies.



Breckner, Roswitha, Liebhart, Karin and Pohn-Lauggas, Maria (eds) (2021) [Sozialwissenschaftliche Analysen von Bild- und Medienwelten](#). De Gruyter.

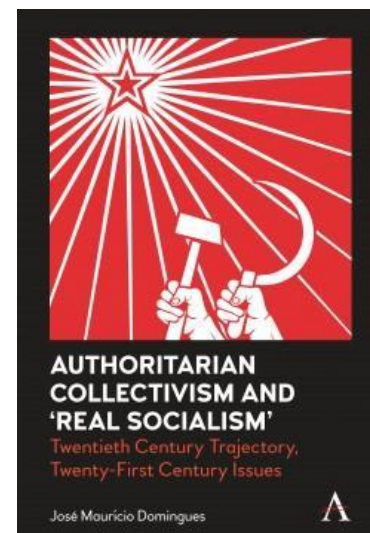


The analysis of moving and still images with regard to their social, cultural and political role is becoming increasingly important in the social sciences. In the meantime, a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches to image and film analysis are available, which also spur each other. While some of them are already established in the German-speaking and/or international scientific world, others are breaking new theoretical and methodological ground.



In this volume, scientists of the research focus "Visual Studies in the Social Sciences" at the University of Vienna present various approaches that are applied in the disciplines of political science, sociology, media and communication studies as well as cultural and social anthropology. They range from sociological-hermeneutic approaches and reconstructions using the documentary method to multimodal analysis and ethnographic analyses as well as film analyses to participatory approaches and a visual essay. Based on theoretical considerations, their implementation is shown using a concrete example in each case. The aim is to demonstrate concrete empirical analyses and their methodological foundations. The examples relate to different visual media, different social contexts and a variety of subject matters. The volume contains contributions in German and English and provides an insight into the wide field of approaches to the analysis of visuals in the social sciences.

Domingues, Jose Mauricio (2022) [Authoritarian Collectivism and 'Real Socialism': Twentieth Century Trajectory. Twenty-First Century Issues](#). Anthem Press.



The book discusses so-called real socialism and offers an alternative conceptualization of it as authoritarian collectivism, making use of an analytical and developmental methodology, that is, presenting it in categorical terms as well dwelling on its genesis, development and demise. The political dimension stands out in the conceptual articulation, with 'democratic centralism' and the prominence of the Communist Party, working from the top down. The book concentrates on the principles of 'real socialism', particularly in the Soviet Union but also globally, analysing also its present embrace of capitalism, particularly in China, but also elsewhere, taking account of how those political principles remain however in place today. A new civilization was intended, which was supposed to be the first step in the journey towards communism, leading however to an oppressive sort of state/society articulation and to new forms of hierarchy and appropriation of material benefits by the

political upper layers.

The historical genesis of Soviet 'socialism', through Stalinism and to post-Stalinism, furnished the model to be analysed, but its global spread in China, Vietnam, Africa, Cuba and elsewhere enriched the original experience, but at its core the political system and the state structure that allowed for the prominence of a powerful and exclusivist political bureaucracy was always reinstated. The failure of the system – economically and politically – to withstand the competition which the liberal and capitalist world sustained led to its disappearance in the Soviet Union and other countries or to a transformation that brought back capitalism, which is now combined with the former political structure. China is the foremost example of this new reality, which is however reproduced elsewhere. The book closes with a discussion of the motivation of revolutionary actors, including communism, anti-colonialism and nationalism, the role of unintended consequences in history and what emancipation and socialism might mean today.

Contact

For inclusion in future issues of the newsletter, please email Paddy Dolan (paddy.dolan@tudublin.ie) information on the following topics:

- upcoming conferences/ summer schools/ academic events
- reports on recent conferences
- calls for papers or contributions in special issues/ edited volumes
- job / grant opportunities
- titles of new or forthcoming books/special issues/ articles (please also provide web links)
- links to online resources/ websites/ groups/ blogs related to historical sociology
- book reviews
- commentaries on issues/current affairs relevant to historical sociology, including how socio-historical knowledge can inform current political debates, events and processes