



History of
Sociology

NEWSLETTER

December 2023

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with assistance from previous editor, Marcia Rangel Candido.

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Letter From the President of RC08



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Dear fellow members and friends,

Our research committee has experienced many changes since our last meeting at the World Congress in Melbourne, in June 2023. We elected a new management board at that meeting (thank you to everyone who participated!) and found time to discuss many issues of importance to us. Many also met socially, and I am sure we all enjoyed the experience of the conference (whether in person or on-line). So many wonderful people in our network and such fabulous projects!



Not long after the World Congress, our Secretary, Marcia Rangel Candido, found herself in a difficult employment situation, and was no longer able to continue in the role. Thank you Marcia for trying your best to support our RC! Under the RC08 Statutes, we are able to nominate and appoint a new Secretary without the necessity of holding an election (until the next Congress), and RC08 member, Diego Ezequiel Pereyra, has very kindly stepped forward to take up this role. Diego has produced this newsletter at rather short notice, and will be collecting information for the next one in the next couple of months. Thank you Diego!

At the World Congress we also approved changes to our Statutes as a research committee, primarily the creation of the new position of Treasurer. The Statutes have now been updated, and importantly, they differentiate between the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. If you read these, you will see that the Treasurer now shares some of the tasks previously falling to the Secretary. This lightens the responsibility of the Secretary, and makes the role of the Treasurer a little more varied and interesting. You can find these Statutes on the RC08 website (which is on the ISA website). You can also find the minutes from the World Congress business meeting on the site, if you wish to read these. (If you cannot find them, please feel free to ask).

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Another significant change for us has been financial. We have two bank accounts for our RC. One is held for us by the ISA, and the other is a local bank account. We like to keep a local bank account because it allows us to have affiliated/associate members who are not members of the ISA, but wish to participate in our activities. While it is important that the majority of RC08 members are also members of the ISA (because this is how we are funded by the ISA as a committee), we value these additional members, and if we only had a central account, we could not have affiliated/associate members. Our previous Treasurer, Per Wisselgren, has had some difficulties sustaining the local bank account given the tightening up of Swedish banking rules. The management board is in the process of transferring the funds to a new account, in Germany, under the control of the new Treasurer, Philipp Altmann. Thank you Per, Philipp and the management board for all your help in this confusing process!

The management board has also been busy developing plans for the RC. We have several working groups, composed of members from the management board plus several other members, developing strategies for the RC. These groups are exploring options for improving our external communication as an RC, planning our conferences, and looking at increasing the Awards we support in our research committee. In the next edition, we hope to have reports on these activities for you. Any members of the RC, who are not on the management board, are very welcome to join these working groups – or to offer suggestions for activities. Just email and let me know of your interest!



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This edition of our newsletter is primarily devoted to Professor Charles Crothers, who recently passed away. Many members who were close to Charles have written about his life and their memories of him. We give these stories to you in this newsletter. It has been very sad to lose this man who has done so much for his family, friends, our RC, for the discipline, and for our worldwide community. We remember you, Charles, in this edition and in many other ways.

Some of you may be aware that in the last six months I left my position as Professor of Sociology in Sweden, and returned to Australia. Rather than settle back in my residence in (noisy, busy) Sydney, I moved to the Illawarra (an hour or so south of Sydney). It is an absolutely beautiful coastal strip below a tree-covered escarpment, filled with native wildlife and amazing plants. With this major residential change, I can run with my dogs on the beach each day, or walk through the bush (an Australian word for our woods), or sit with a laptop among the birds and plants in the native garden. Also, I have now taken a position as an Honorary Professorial Fellow at the University of Wollongong. It has been a really good change for me, professionally and personally, and has taught me some really new things (one is never too old to learn!). One of these is about the importance of appreciating the world we live in, and taking time to ensure, if we can, that we have joy in our lives. As individuals, I know we are busy with our personal projects, our friends and families, and managing the many challenges and joys (both large and small) that make up our lives. As sociologists, however, it can become very difficult to close our eyes to the ongoing and systematic difficulties experienced by so many in this world. Indeed it is not hard for us to become quite overwhelmed, even traumatised by some of the events around us. I am thinking here particularly about the invasion of Ukraine; the tragedies of the Middle East; the systematic undermining of democratic rights through political change in many countries of the world; the damage to our universities through neoliberalism, managerialism and corporate capitalism; and the unparalleled destruction of the eco-system (and its inhabitants) through climate change. Like you, I have little capacity to prevent or 'fix' these terrible events, but may I remind you of the need to take care of yourself so that you may continue to participate in making this world a better place? Of the need to sometimes just stop and think about the beauty of the world and the good people who are in it (yes, there are many!) who are also trying to make it a better place. We can all do so much more if we are as healthy and strong as we can be. So please, care for yourselves as well as the world around you.

My thoughts are with you all,
Warm regards
Fran Collyer



Member's Publications

Articles and Book Chapters

Altmann, Philipp "Ecuadorian Sociology or the Institutionalization of a Strange Discipline." *Revue d'histoire Des Sciences Humaines* (42), 2023:123–44 [<https://doi.org/10.4000/rhsh.8189>].

Altmann, Philipp "Localisation of Circulating Academic Knowledge." in *Routledge Handbook of Academic Knowledge Circulation*. Routledge, 2023

Altmann, Philipp. 2023c. "New Classics for the New Science – Re-Reading the Basis of Sociology in Ecuador until the 1950s." *Tapuya: Latin American Science, Technology and Society* 0(0):2222238 [<https://doi.org/10.1080/25729861.2023.2222238>].

Altmann, Philipp. 2023d. "Soziologie in Ecuador zwischen Liberalismus und Marxismus in bewegten Zeiten." Pp. 151–73 in *Soziologie und Krise: Gesellschaftliche Spannungen als Motor der Geschichte der Soziologie*, edited by N. Holzhauser, S. Moebius, and A. Ploder. Wiesbaden: Springer Fachmedien.

Bortolini, Matteo, "Il lungo dopoguerra de Il caso italiano. Scienze sociali e broker di idee nell'Italia degli anni Settanta", *Altopiano*, 1(2), 2023: 69-87.

Bortolini, Matteo "A Revolutionary Science and its Carriers: On Talcott Parsons, Robert N. Bellah, and Teacher-Pupil Chains in Scholarly Fields", in A. J. Treviño and H. Staubmann (eds.), *Routledge International Handbook of Talcott Parsons Studies*, Routledge, London, 2022: 237-248.

Bortolini, Matteo and Andrea Cossu, "Talcott Parsons and Italian Sociology: A Complex and (Perhaps) Surprising Story", in A. J. Treviño and H. Staubmann (eds.), *Routledge International Handbook of Talcott Parsons Studies*, Routledge, London, 2022: 329-341.

Susen, Simon "A New Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere? With, against, and beyond Habermas", *Society*, LX, 2023: 842–867 [<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12115-023-00908-y>].

Susen, Simon, *Vers une ontologie de la réalité contemporaine?*, Éditions Académiques de France, 2023: 1-33.

Susen, Simon, "Towards an Ontology of Contemporary Reality?", *Theory, Culture & Society, Online First*, [<https://doi.org/10.1177/02632764221143943>].

Books

Gary D. Jaworski, *Erving Goffman and the Cold War*. Lexington Books, 2023.

Erving Goffman and the Cold War presents a provocative new reading of the work of sociologist Erving Goffman. Instead of viewing him as a “marginal man” or academic outsider, Gary D. Jaworski explores Goffman as a social theorist of the Cold War. Goffman was deeply connected to both the ethos of his time and to a range of cold warriors and their critics, such as Edward A. Shils, Thomas C. Schelling, and the researchers on “brainwashing” associated with the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, among others. Chapters on loyalty, betrayal, secrecy, strategy, interrogation, provocation, and aggression concretely illustrate these connections. *Erving Goffman and the Cold War* shows that Goffman was much more than a microsociologist of mundane life; he was a perceptive analyst of the Cold War America.

Rafael Schögler, *Die Politik der Buchübersetzung. Entwicklungslinien in den Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften nach 1945*, Campus, 2023. (*The Politics of Book Translation. Lines of development in the humanities and social sciences after 1945*)

This study focuses on book translation in the humanities and social sciences and reconstructs translation flows, translational networks and positioning of translators. In a complex way, it traces the politics of book translation in the Federal Republic of Germany from 1945 onwards, shows important lines of development and illustrates the mutual influence of science and translation. A conceptual instrument is created for analysing a wide range of translation policy phenomena.

Available at:

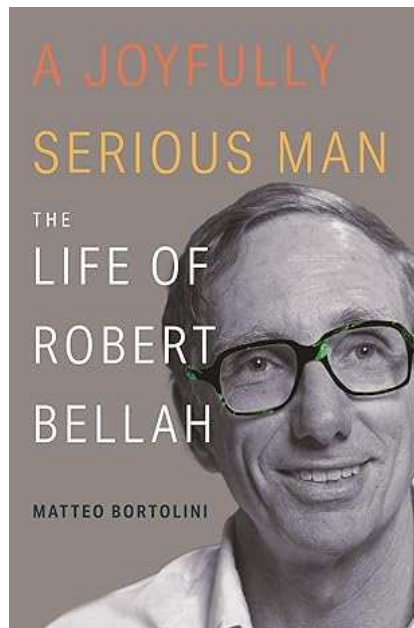
https://www.campus.de/buecher-campus-verlag/wissenschaft/soziologie/die_politik_der_buchuebersetzung-17137.html



Matteo Bortolini, *A Joyfully Serious Man. The Life of Robert Bellah*, Princeton University Press, 2023.

This book tells the brilliant but turbulent life of a The brilliant but of a public intellectual who transformed the social sciences. Robert Bellah (1927–2013) was one of the most influential social scientists of the twentieth century. Trained as a sociologist, he crossed disciplinary boundaries in pursuit of a greater comprehension of religion as both a cultural phenomenon and a way to fathom the depths of the human condition. *A Joyfully Serious Man* is the definitive biography of this towering figure in modern intellectual life, and a revelatory portrait of a man who led an adventurous yet turbulent life.

Drawing on Bellah's personal papers as well as in-depth interviews with those who knew him, Matteo Bortolini tells the story of an extraordinary scholarly career and an eventful and tempestuous life. He describes Bellah's exile from the United States during the hysteria of the McCarthy years, his crushing personal tragedies, and his experiments with sexuality. Bellah understood religion as a mysterious human institution that brings together the scattered pieces of individual and collective experiences. Bortolini shows how Bellah championed intellectual openness and innovation through his relentless opposition to any notion of secularization as a decline of religion and his ideas about the enduring tensions between individualism and community in American society.



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Academic Activities

Workshop on the Sociology and History of the Social and Human Sciences,
Graz, November 16-17th, 2023

It was organised by Martin STRAUSS and Stephan MOEBIUS (University of Graz) together with Gisèle SAPIRO (EHESS/CNRS/CESSP) under the auspices of the Doctoral Programme “Sociology and History of the Social and Cultural Sciences” in cooperation with École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris (“Atelier doctoral à l'international”), and supported by Austrian Association for Sociology (ÖGS), Section History of the Sociology German Sociological Association (DGS), Section History of Sociology Archiv für die Geschichte der Soziologie in Österreich (AGSÖ) Gesellschaft für Soziologie an der Universität Graz (GSU)

The SHSHS workshop series continues a decade-long tradition of “Spring Schools” on the History and Sociology of the Social and Cultural Sciences at the University of Graz (for earlier events, see <https://doktoratsprogramm-geschichte-soziologie-sozialwissenschaften.uni-graz.at/de/spring-schools/>). It also builds on the recent success of a similar workshop series on the history of German-speaking sociology that resulted in the creation of a national research committee within the German Sociological Association (DGS, see <https://soziologiegeschichte.wordpress.com/>) as well as in a comprehensive handbook on the history and sociology of German-speaking sociology. This series of annual workshops intends to create a space where these different approaches and interests can meet and enter into dialogue with each other. By providing an open forum of exchange for early-career researchers (Master's, doctoral and postdoctoral students) the workshops aim at building an interdisciplinary and international community of people interested in socio-historical studies of the social and human sciences.

These studies are increasingly becoming a research field of their own. They have today their own journals (e.g. Journal for the History of the Behavioral Sciences, Revue d'histoire des sciences humaines, History of the Human Sciences, Zyklus, Serendipities, History of Social Science), their own book series (e.g. Socio-Historical Studies of the Social and Human Sciences, Sociology Transformed, Klassiker der Sozialwissenschaften), their own research committees in national and international professional associations, their own collective research projects and research groups, and so on. However, it remains a challenge to maintain a dialogue across the various disciplines involved. Little surprisingly, we encounter in the field of socio-historical studies of the social and human sciences the same plurality of theoretical approaches, objects, methodological tools, research practices and national traditions as in these disciplines themselves.

However, it remains a challenge to maintain a dialogue across the various disciplines and national traditions involved. By providing an open forum of exchange for international early-career researchers from different disciplines this workshop aims at building an interdisciplinary and international community of people working in the area of socio-historical studies of the social and human sciences. The contributions covered therefore a variety of disciplines and national as well as international contexts and address topics such as boundary-work and group formation, forms of marginality, international circulation and the present-day bearing of socio-historical studies of the social and human sciences.



Anti-Colonial Scholarship and Global Social Theory

Norrköping, October 4-6th, 2023.

There was an interesting and valuable workshop held in Norrköping, Sweden, during last October. It was organized by our RC08 member professor Sujata Patel together with Maureen A. Eger from Umeå University and Stefan Jonsson from Linköping University. The organizers arranged it as “an international and interdisciplinary workshop on empire, colonialism, decolonization, and global inequalities – and their place in social theory”. To mention just a few among the 35 presenters and their discussants, there were Manuela Boatcă, Laura Doyle, Ann Phoenix and Syed Farid Alatas. As the 35 researchers came from Brazil, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, and UK, it was not the more usual internationalism with researchers coming mostly from US and Europe. Also, other guests as the author of this, and several PhD candidates were present.

The question guiding the workshop was “How will anticolonial and decolonial ideas help redefine Global Social Theory?” Today’s social theory is dependent on universities and publishers in the Global North, and the voices of the Global South are seldom heard. The canon of anti-colonial research is given with Said, Amin and Spivak, and later contributions have come from Hountondji, Quijano, Chakraborty, Connell, Bhambra and de Sousa Santos. The perspective has been broadened with Eurocentrism, colonial modernity, Southern theory, and indigenous theories.

The type of colonialism that has been focused in anti-colonial scholarship is the colonialism from countries in Western Europe. This workshop also broadened this in space, with discussions on Russia, China, and the Ottoman Empire, and in time, with empires historically rivalling over the same bits of land. Sujata Patel traced colonialism back to the 16th century. Colonialism always met resistance but scholarship on colonialism came later, especially in the 1930’s and 1940’s, and then again in the 1980’s.

How is colonialism related to nationalism? Edda Manga said that we, as workshop participants, are inhabiting complex positions, communist, anti-communist, nationalist, anti-nationalist, coming from different parts of the world where friends and enemies have been defined differently. She said that “we have hybrid genealogies”, trying at our workshop to find common ground.

What about modernity? Decolonialism cannot mean going back to the past with the kind of chiefs that ruled premodern societies. Even if colonialism and modernity are intertwined, modernity cannot be done away with. But, as Faisal Garba Muhammed said, it is important to support indigenous struggles for their ancestral burying grounds against mining interests, and similar battles.

Social theory was born amidst colonialism, as Julian Go stressed. How did the colonial conditions influence Karl Marx? This was a question that got different answers from the workshop participants. Marx criticized capitalism and did not take up plantation labour, as Julian said. But Carl-Urik Schierup objected, Marxism has been attractive to anti-colonialists all through history.

Interesting concrete examples of things to study for an anti-colonialist were taken up by among others Ann Phoenix (racist school politics, see Lyttanya Shannon’s BBC documentary 2021, “Subnormal: A British Scandal”) and Claudia Tazreiter (the remarkable book written by Behrouz Boochani as a captive 2013-2019 on the Australian Manus island, a kind of prison for refugees. The book “No Friend but the Mountains” was, as the book company says, “laboriously tapped out on a mobile phone and translated from the Farsi”).

The most powerful image shown during the three days of workshop was Imelda Cajipe-Endaya’s installation “Ang Asawa Ay DH” (My wife is a Domestic Helper) in 1995. It was Neferti Tadiar who showed us that in her talk “Planetary Questions and the Global South”.

Hedda Ekerwald



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Call For Papers

Eighth International Undergraduate Research Conference on Science, Technology, Medicine, and Society (STMS)

To be held online at the University of Toronto, March 21–22, 2024

Conference Theme: Individuals and Institutions of Science

While it is clear that individuals and institutions shape science, technology, and medicine (STM), a significant challenge lies in illustrating how their interactions evolve over time, molding and remolding various STM landscapes and their broader significance in the world. This conference, drawing on humanistic and social studies approaches, aims to illuminate the dynamic interplay between individuals and institutions across a range of STM landscapes and time frames. How do individuals and institutions interact in ways that shape STM research at various scales, from the local to the global, for the better and for the worse? How does international collaboration among STM individuals and institutions influence the way global challenges are framed, contested, and addressed? How do individuals and institutions contribute to STM education and what challenges do they face? How do diverse perspectives and interests associated with differently situated individuals and institutions mix and clash in ways that shape and reshape how STM gets done? How do the individuals and institutions of STM balance the objectives of promoting transparency and safeguarding their intellectual property? How does communication within and about STM affect media representation and public perception of these fields? In what ways do ethical considerations impact the STM work of both individuals and institutions? How are individuals and institutions portrayed in humanistic and social studies of STM? How should STM individuals and institutions be held accountable for the consequences of their work? How do academic, professional, and other institutional structures and reward systems influence the goals, work, and lives of individuals in STM?

The Eighth International Undergraduate Research Conference on Science, Technology, Medicine, and Society at the University of Toronto invites student submissions that examine the interaction and intersection between individuals and institutions in STM. Topics may include but are not limited to: science policy and funding, philosophy of science, history of science, global collaboration, intersections between people and artificial intelligence (AI), and other topics focused on the institutions and individuals of science. We also invite submissions on other issues related to Science, Technology, and Medicine (STM) in historical and contemporary contexts throughout the world. As an interdisciplinary gathering, we encourage students to submit papers from across the arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences—check out our 2024 conference webpage to view more information and examples of previous abstracts.

Interested students should submit an abstract (250 words) and a brief bio (50 words) by January 31st, 2024 using the following link: <https://forms.gle/Bz1EV3VwHjPinAQF6>.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Cui at: stephaniedr.cui@mail.utoronto.ca

All applicants will be notified by February 10th, 2024.

In Memoriam. Professor Charles Crothers.



Emeritus Professor of Sociology at
Auckland University of Technology,
New Zealand.

Charles Crothers died on August 13
this year 2023 at the age of 75.

Charles Crothers was a good friend and a long-standing colleague of mine. I miss him. I also smile whenever I think of him. He had an interesting and quite unique sense of humour, and I loved his straight-forward, no nonsense approach to 'life, the universe and everything'. Charles travelled less frequently in more recent years, but we emailed each other nearly every day: he was a bit lonely and rather unwell. I hope my friendship helped him a little.

I saw Charles for the last time on zoom at the World Congress in Melbourne, when I had the honour of presenting him with the Robert K. Merton Award for his Distinguished Contribution to the Sociology of Science and Technology. This award was given by RC23 (it was a virtual event).

Charles had a long association with New Zealand sociology, where he did his undergraduate and postgraduate studies, and where he began his academic career. Charles later left the country and spent six years as Professor of Sociology in Durban, South Africa, at the University of Natal. He had a distinguished career, and has been recognised with several important awards and achievements. There are too many to list here, but I will mention a few. For example, between 2002 and 2008, and then from 2014, he was Secretary and then Vice-President of RC08, the History of Sociology research committee, and in 2008 was awarded the SAANZ (Sociological Association of Aotearoa New Zealand) 'Lifetime Scholarship Prize'. In the same year, Charles was appointed to UNESCO's International Editorial Council to be the editor for the Encyclopaedia of Life Support Systems. In 1994, Charles was elected President of the New Zealand Sociological Association. Through his career, he was an editor of several major journals, and a visiting professor at many universities, including the Universities of Oregon, Waterloo, Kent at Canterbury, Sussex and Rome (Sapienza).

Charles had a career of more than 40 years of research and writing, teaching and supervising. Indeed a recent count of his publications output tells us that he published 68 journal articles, four books, 50 book chapters and edited some dozen special issues or collections. And if he was like most academics at a late stage of his career, that is probably an under-estimate, as there is often a tendency to forget to keep track of them all. Charles had diverse research interests over his long career, but the major ones were sociological theories, social inequalities, and the development and history of sociology and the social sciences – both national histories and the history of sociology as it has developed globally – as well as an interest in comparing these histories and their various forms of organisation.

It was Charles' interest in the history of sociology that led me to first come to know Charles, for like all the members of the RC, I am a scholar of national histories of sociology. Charles had first-hand



knowledge of New Zealand sociology, and as some of you may be aware, the first professional association of sociology in NZ was a joint association of New Zealanders and Australians, formed in 1963. It was called the Sociological Association of Australia and New Zealand, SAANZ for short. It went well for a few years, but in 1988 there was a rather difficult divorce, and the Australians and New Zealanders formed their own national associations. By the time I wanted to write about it – because I was writing the history of Australian sociology, and one cannot do that without mentioning our cousins 'over the ditch' (the Tasman sea) – there were very few sociologists who could remember what that divorce was all about, but it was rather fun spending time with Charles discussing our mutual past and current interests in that period of history.

I have personally written only a small amount about NZ sociology (Charles, of course, has written much more) and I have always been careful not to write too much about it. Many Australians write about NZ sociology as if it were simply an extension of Australian sociology. Indeed, there are jokes, not just among sociologists but across the society, that NZ is simply another state of Australia. I have always found that attitude quite offensive. I have always been aware that NZ has a quite distinctive history, and that that history has shaped its cultural landscape and the formation of its social structure. As a sociologist of knowledge, I am well aware that these factors have shaped the kind of sociological knowledge NZ has produced. In a small study I published back in 2013 - at the behest of Charles - I examined some of the differences in the production of knowledge in the sociology of health between NZ, Australia, the UK and the USA. It was only a small study, but it indicated the way sociologists in NZ had quite different working environments to Australians. For instance, the health sociologists in NZ were much more likely to work in public health or medical departments, and to obtain funding from medical companies or organisations than were the Australian sociologists. This may seem like a minor detail, but there is lots of evidence showing the enormous influence one's structural position can have on the way one perceives the world, and how we analyse it.

But to return to Charles, in addition to his interests in the history of sociology, and more directly pertinent to the award I presented to him on 29th June 2023, Charles had a long standing interest in Robert Merton and the Columbia Tradition of Sociology (which was presided over by Robert K Merton and Paul Lazarsfeld). His 2021 monograph, *Reintroducing Robert K. Merton* (published by Routledge), is, I believe, his most recent major achievement. This book not only examines Merton's theoretical and conceptual offerings, but provides something of the history of Merton's career, as well as a substantive argument for why we should revisit Merton today. Charles makes the case that Merton's contributions are too often overlooked given the current, anti-functionalist era, and manages to differentiate between Merton and his much-criticised teacher, Talcott Parsons. He shows us that Merton certainly took much from Parsons, but also offered an alternative to Parsons' functionalism. This book is able to convince us that Merton's insights into the world of scientists and science will continue to have relevance in our world as knowledge workers as we investigate the past and current knowledge society. I wholeheartedly recommend this book to you all.

Despite his passing, Charles' work is not finished. Next year his chapter on Merton will be published in a *Handbook of the Sociology of Knowledge* which I am editing with Edward Elgar Publishing. I am really pleased I can do this last thing for Charles, and make sure his work is made available for everyone to share. It is the least I can do for someone who taught me so much about how to handle some of the low points in academic life, and to enjoy its promise. Safe travels Charles, my friend.

Fran Collyer
President, RC08, History of Sociology.
Honorary Professorial Fellow
University of Wollongong.
September 2023.



History of Sociology



I do not remember the first time I met Charles in person, but I definitely remember the best chat I had with him. It was during the farewell party of the 2014 World Conference of Sociology at Yokohama. We spent a few hours talking randomly about sociology, politics, sports, music, different English accents, and other minor subjects. This could be just another instance of the small talk usual in any academic meeting, but Charles could say something clever and funny about virtually any topic I brought to the conversation.

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I got closer to Charles when I served as the RC08's secretary during his term (2014-2018) as one of the two Vice-President of the group (Cherry Schrecker was the other VP, and Stephen Turner was the President). When I heard about his passing, I decided to check my e-mail for old messages from him and realized that we talked a lot during all those years, and not just about RC's issues. He asked me everything about Brazil, from politics to sports, but also about my family and personal affairs.

One of the most important virtues of a great sociologist is a genuine passion for all kinds of human experiences, and Charles definitely had it. That is why he represented so well the combination of scholarship and camaraderie that is still a trademark of RC08's meetings.

João Maia

Vice-President of RC08



When I had received the news of his death, I cried! I was not a private friend of his but his colleague in RC08, the Research Committee on the History of Sociology within ISA, the International Sociological Association. I liked him so much.

He was professor of sociology at Auckland University of Technology in New Zealand. He had been a member of the board of RC08 from 1999, and for the years 2002-2006 he upheld our most important position, the position of being the secretary of the research committee, the one who does all the work. Then he was elected vice-president of our committee 2006-2010. According to the rules you cannot have a position in the board for more than eight consecutive years but after a period of pause he was once more elected our vice-president for the years 2014-2018. He has really served our research committee well for a long time for which we are all thankful.

Charles' research concerned research methods and social theory. In the latter field he is especially known as a world authority on the classic Robert Merton. Charles has also developed the concept of social structure. He has written on applied social research, and he has researched urban life, wellbeing, class and minorities, education, elections, and internet in addition to the subject that unites our research committee RC08, the history of sociology. As his university presents him when he, as one of very few colleagues was appointed to professor emeritus (in June 2019): "Professor Crothers has a strong research record with 21 books and chapters, 52 refereed research publications, and 25 research reports. /.../ he has also completed 24 thesis supervisions ranging from honours dissertations through to doctorates."

I searched everywhere for information about Charles, trying to soothe myself. I found his list of publications at his university, Auckland University of Technology. I collected it from the many webpages and it made up a file of 62 pages, not only publications but also oral presentations, conference papers, reports to different authorities etc. Through it I got a clear image of his broad research interests.

I also got a real treasure, a late interview in English with Charles made by Lorenzo Sabetta in the journal *Quaderni di Teoria Sociale* (DOI: 10.57611/qts.v2i1.242)[1]. It was made in June this year. I recommend you all to read it for its deep reflections on sociology of today. We do not need to agree with these reflections and my hope is that they could induce a discussion in RC08. In it Charles also describes his career and his apprehension of Robert K. Merton.

I would say that postmodernism has not influenced him particularly and all the different fashion waves that took many sociologists with them, passed him without much impact. There is one or two references containing the term "intersectionality". Still, he noticed these waves and wrote about them repeatedly over the years. He wrote about "realist approaches", "national traditions", "trends in sociology", "traditions in recent sociology", "the diversity and insularity of sociological traditions", "theoretical approaches in sociology", "branches of sociology" and "sociologies of New Zealand". Two

exceptions to this belonging to a stable mainstream of sociology might be an article which he wrote on the legacy of Jacques Derrida (2005) and on the reception of Heidegger within sociology (2003).

In the Sabetti interview page 250 Charles says: "Sociology, then, to some extent is a "monitoring" science with a heavy emphasis on description: social realities do change (usually in fairly minor ways) and the job of sociology is to track these."

Charles Crothers cared about the analysis of society from a sociological perspective with statistics and concepts like class, well-being, social change and social structure. He studied the city Auckland where he lived, with its about 1,5 million inhabitants, almost a third of the population in all of New Zealand. He studied in concentric circles the suburbs and the region, other regions, the whole country and its place in the world, especially its little-sister-relation to Australia, the big brother, or expressed in another way, New Zealand as a possible "eighth state of Australia". Charles also found himself to be "a sociologist at the end of the earth".

He had a profound knowledge about the concentric societal circles around him and he travelled easily in his studies up to the global scale and down to a specific suburb of Auckland and up again, seeing both specificities and similarities between the different circles. You could talk about levels instead, but Charles is more geographical in his understanding of the world.

He wrote about settler economy, where the settlers being those coming from the colonial mother country to the colony to stay there, unlike the colonial agents who returned to Europe. The settler economy influences the independent society growing out of colonialism, making up for a similarity between New Zealand and South Africa. Charles also wrote about the antipodes, meaning from the position of British Isles, namely Australia and New Zealand, but in the antipodes he also included South Africa. He went to the Republic of South Africa and served as a professor of sociology at the University of Natal, Durban, South Africa, today the University of KwaZulu-Natal, for the years 1997-2001.

Charles had an intimate sociological knowledge of his own society, something which I deem is not so common among researchers of the history of sociology. He was very familiar with sociological research results from all over the world and he could observe the global trends in New Zealand as well as the particularities of that country. Some of his knack for good research reports based on statistics and deep analysis came from the years in the 1990's when he served as Senior Investigating Officer at Town and Country Planning Division, Ministry of Works & Development. Typical of his critical writings is the headline in the newspaper when, much later, one of his reports was published, the Macro Auckland Report in 2017: "Auckland: unsafe, polluted, discriminatory".

Robert K. Merton (1910-2003) met Paul Lazarsfeld at Columbia University and started the Bureau of Applied Social Research in the 1940's, a center that would be leading worldwide in such research. Merton, who gave us the concepts of unintended consequences, the reference-group and self-fulfilling prophecy, came to interest Charles who wrote his first piece on Merton in 1987, the book Robert K. Merton. Charles went to Merton in New York and visited him and even got the chance to accompany him to Italy (see Sabetta's interview). In the references below I have listed his oeuvres on Merton found in his publication list.

As a good researcher Charles Crothers always tried to summarize research in different fields that interested him. In giving us review articles he helped researchers not to drown in the sheer amount of research, an amount growing every day. He did so on the literature on Merton (see Crothers 2019), he did so on social studies on New Zealand with titles such as "Regular surveys on New Zealanders" (2023), "Social change in New Zealand: Preliminary investigations of the last two decades of social background characteristics" (2020) and "State of the Social sciences in New Zealand" (2020). This means that both the structures of the New Zealand society and the structures of sociology/social studies were scrutinized by him.



Charles was international, working in South Africa as said, participating in the conferences of the American Sociological Association, being an activist in RC08 etc. As a teacher he was promoting the education of minorities, especially Maori students, and Pacific students from abroad. To him New Zealand was Aotearoa.

On Charles Crothers' homepage on the occasion of his death, his colleague in Durban, South Africa, Sean Jones left a message. I want to finish with Sean's words which I full heartedly agree with. Sean described Charles Crothers as "always good-natured, generous, and self-effacing, never self-seeking, he sought to encourage, to motivate, to collaborate".

Charles Crothers' oeuvres on Robert K. Merton:

Crothers, C. (1987) Robert K. Merton. Chichester: Ellis Horwood

Crothers, C. Several chapters in Jonathan Michie (ed.) (2001). Reader's guide to the social sciences. London: Fitzroy Dearborn

Crothers, C. (2003) "The Late Robert K Merton as an historian of sociology". Newsletter of the Research Committee on the History of Sociology

Crothers Charles (2004) "Merton as a General Theorist: Structures, Choices, Mechanisms, and Consequences". The American Sociologist, 2004, vol. 35 (3), p.23-36

Crothers, C. et al(?) (2005) "The Influence of Robert K Merton". Paper presented at the American Sociological Association 100th Annual Meeting

Crothers, C. (2006) "Merton, R.K.". The Scribner Encyclopedia of American Lives, 2003-2005, p. 365-368. Charles Scribner's sons

Crothers, C. (2009) "Merton's flawed and incomplete methodological program: Response to Stephen Turner". Philosophy of the Social Sciences 39 (2), p.272-278. SAGE Publications

Crothers, C. (2011) "Robert K. Merton" in George Ritzer & Jeffrey Stepnisky (eds) (2011). The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Major Social Theorists. Chichester, West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell

Crothers, C. (2011) "Review of the book Robert K. Merton: Sociology of Science and Sociology as Science, by Craig Calhoun". Contemporary Sociology: a journal of reviews 40 (4), p. 438-440. American Sociological Association

Crothers, C. (2018) "The relationship between Merton's sociology of science and his general sociology" Paper presented at the XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology 2018, session "In Memory of Robert K Merton"

Crothers, C. (2019) "Recent writings on Robert K Merton: a Listing and some Observations. The American Sociologist 50 (1), p. 121-135. Springer Verlag

Crothers, C., L. Bornmann and R. Haunschild (2020) "Citation Concept Analysis (CCA) of Robert K. Merton's book Social theory and social structure: How often are certain concepts from the book cited in subsequent publications? Quantitative Science studies 1 (2), p. 675-690.

Crothers, C. (2021[2021]). Reintroducing Robert K. Merton. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge

Crothers C. & Lorenzo Sabetta (eds)(2022) The Anthem Companion to Robert K. Merton. London, New York, Melbourne, Dehli: The Anthem Press

Crothers C. L. Sabetta and L. Stern (2022) "The Development of Mertonian status-and-role theory", in The Anthem Companion to Robert K. Merton

Crothers C. et al. (2022) "Introduction: Merton's self-exemplifying classical sociological contributions", in The Anthem Companion to Robert K. Merton

Crothers, C. (2023) "Landscape and Architecture of Merton's Sociology of Science". Paper presented at the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology in Melbourne

Crothers, C. (coming December 2023) "The Postwar Columbia Tradition in Sociology: Its Cognitive Communalities and Social Mechanisms". Journal of Classical Sociology. SAGE Publications

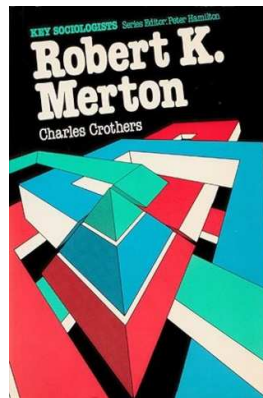
Crothers, C. & F. Collyer (coming December 2023) "Merton's Pursuit of an American version of the sociology of Knowledge", chapter in Handbook of the Sociology of Knowledge. Palgrave

Notes

[1] L. Sabetta's interview in English with Charles Crothers (June 2023): https://www.researchgate.net/publication/371902411_Sociology_of_Structures_Structures_of_Sociology_An_Interview_with_Charles_Crothers

Hedvig Ekerwald

Associate Professor of Sociology at the Sociological Department of Uppsala University



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Charles was open, friendly, informed, unpretentious, and fun to be around. We first became close when we stayed at the same tiny B and B in Cork, for a meeting, having breakfast together. He had many adventures after that, including his time in South Africa, which he shared with the world. He always had a new take, and a new approach to getting data on vexed questions like "who really is international." Charles really was international himself. He was comfortable everywhere. And always had something new to tell you. Being around him was an education, in more than sociology. Seeing him at a meeting always was a pleasure. So was working with him on his book on New Zealand sociology. He cared about the history of sociology. I'm pleased to see that he got the recognition he deserved for his service to the subject.

Stephen Turner

University of South Florida



History of Sociology



I corresponded with Charles Crothers on and off for almost 25 years. The subject was always his intellectual hero Robert K. Merton. One had to learn to interpret the special way Charles wrote his emails. They were often cryptic exchanges seemingly written as though he were on the run. When he wrote to me and shared that he was taking a special cancer drug and it seemed to be working, I understood better what he was running from.

In recent years, we corresponded more frequently. He shared his work and dreams of projects he hoped to begin. He shared how proud he felt this year to have received the ISA's Merton Medal. He intimated to me that his book *Reintroducing Robert K. Merton* deserved more attention in the U.S. I volunteered to write a review, which was published in *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*. This encouraged additional emails, both clear and cryptic, and introductions to American scholars who were, like him, working intensely on studies of Merton and his writings.

This was his modus operandi: drawing you into his world as friend and colleague, connecting you deeper into his networks, and enveloping you with warmth and intellect. His is a loss that is deeply felt.

Gary D. Jaworski
Retired
Fairleigh Dickinson University, Madison NJ USA



Charles Crothers joined the Research Committee History of Sociology in the 1990s, having worked with Jennifer Platt on the history of social research methods and having published on the 'Columbia tradition' in sociology particularly. In the 2000s, Charles served as RCHS secretary, modernized the newsletter to an e-delivery and then edited an encompassing UNESCO-supported volume on 'Historical developments and theoretical approaches in sociology' in 2010. Charles was board member and twice vice-president of the RCHS. Interest in 'the reflexive aspect' of sociology led him to pursue research on its more recent history, thus the sociology of science or a 'sociology of sociology'. As researcher he largely applied a 'quantitative' methodology, and, among other interests, examined international patterns in the development of sociological knowledge. After retiring from Auckland University of Technology in 2018, Charles continued to frequently write for this newsletter and

recommended research literature in the history of sociology. On these occasions Charles also reflected on R.K. Merton's view of historical versus systematic analysis in sociology; their complementarity is manifest in Charles' two monographs and edited volumes on Merton's work itself. Charles' extensions and appreciations of Mertonian sociology were seminal and provided an authoritative benchmark for critically reflecting on and reliably evaluating the numerous interpretations of this sociological 'classic.' In June 2023, Charles was awarded the Robert K. Merton Medal of ISA's RC 23. He also received warm congratulations from Merton's colleague, widow and eminent scholar in her own right, Harriet Zuckerman, who thanked Charles for all his work by which he contributed to widen our understanding and to perpetuate our interest in Merton's research.

Although Charles' analyses of Merton's social theory are probably best known to the international community, his contribution as an empirical researcher in the social sciences is arguably just as important. The breadth and sheer scope of his academic research is impressive. Charles' approach was also sensitive for structural inequalities in the global production and circulation of knowledge. Based in New Zealand, and for five years in South Africa, he transformed the burden of 'the South', which he might have felt, by life-long commitment to establish NZ research infrastructures. Charles edited several social science journals and frequently published applied social research. He also was on the editorial board of 'The American Sociologist', and he held guest professorships in the US (Oregon), Canada (Waterloo), the Pacific (Fiji) and Europe (Rome in Italy, Graz in Austria).

The primary benefit of an international network such as the RCHs might be seen in promoting cooperative research, feeding joint conferences, publications and projects. Apart from that, Charles' roles as a teacher and as a gatekeeper became most influential to me. Though I never formally attended his lectures or seminars, he had a significant impact on my research, professional life and academic growth. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to encounter Charles at RCHS conferences in Austria (2004) and Dublin (2012), in Yokohama (2014) and Toronto (2018). When I presented a piece of research at Dublin, Charles criticized a lacking conceptual framework and deficiencies in transnationally comparing disciplines; fortunately for me, he encouraged me to go on. Two weeks later, Charles explained to me in detail how to cope with difficulties in creating control group samples, e.g. when data on rejected applicants is not available. That initiated a perseverant communication and research supervision having lasted for more than a decade, for which I am deeply thankful. From the far side of the globe, Charles provided constant intellectual advice and encouragement that surpassed anything I had ever experienced before. In 2015, Charles supervised my postdoctoral ('habilitation') thesis in sociology. Among a review committee of four international scholars, mainly 'theorists', he strongly represented a quantitative approach towards empirical research. Charles' review report was dotted with critique, which, however, was enormously helpful for subsequently preparing my research for publication. In Continental Europe, mentor-apprenticeship relations usually are formal and hierarchically structured to a considerable extent, and women and 'minorities' still do not encounter same structural opportunities for pursuing a scientific career. In some ways Charles complemented, or challenged, the more 'traditional' continental European arrangements for academic socialization. From afar, he offered confidence, perseverance and generosity, which for me was a tremendous motivation and indeed a transformative experience.

After Charles' passing, so unexpectedly for many of us, I now learn from his friends and colleagues that he spread his energetic generosity persistently to a wide scientific community, both regional and international. He was always willing to read and comment on research, frequently recommended literature that might be useful for one's research, and he was also strongly committed to issues of social justice. Charles was convinced that social science's flourishing depends on nonremunerated collegiality, mentorship and peer review support. In an atmosphere of enforced competition, increasingly capturing researchers, who often focus on their own research only, Charles' approach is more than rare. It was also self-exemplifying for the 'reflexive' stance he took vis-à-vis the history of sociology and the social sciences in general.

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The End