



European Sociologist

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Editor's Message



EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGIST, the Bulletin of the European Sociological Association (ESA), is a major channel of communication between sociologists in Europe. In this digitalized world, when mobile phones facilitate instant talk and electronic media report newsworthy items within seconds, the newsletter is becoming something of an anachronism. Added to this, is the fact that Europe is becoming more "green" and sociologists are becoming increasingly aware of our physical,

as well as social, environment. That is why we are adapting with the times. The ESA Executive Committee has decided for the first time to distribute the newsletter by email only. However, this second issue of EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGIST in its new format is not a throwaway. It contains details of the forthcoming Lisbon conference, news of the developing structure of the ESA, information on an evolving net of research networks and national associations, an opinion piece on the European Union, a new feature on collaborative sociological research in Europe, interesting opportunities for students, and more. It is designed to update ESA members on the Lisbon conference, stimulate them with opinion pieces on European issues and inform them of new ventures for the benefit of junior and senior sociologists alike. EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGIST can only improve with feedback from ESA members. Clearly, the opinions expressed in the issue are not of the ESA but of individual members. If you have any suggestions and comments on this special pre-conference issue, please do not hesitate to address correspondence to send your ideas to: msshalva@mscc.huji.ac.il

EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGIST is available online at: http://www.europeansociology.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=17&Itemid=95

The link also introduces readers to an electronic archive of past issues.

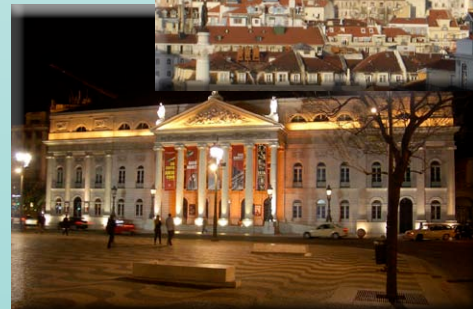
Happy reading!

Shalva Weil

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"European Society or European Societies?"



The Lisbon conference, which will take place between September 2nd and September 6th 2009, is going to be ESA's biggest ever! Three thousand abstracts were submitted online to a total of 47 Research Networks and Research Streams. To date, some 2,500 people have registered, and the list keeps growing! The Conference program with the plenary and semi-plenary sessions is already online at: <http://www.esa9thconference.com>

The Conference is being organised by a consortium including three Portuguese university and research institutions: the Department of Sociology of ISCTE-Lisbon University Institute (the leading institution of the consortium), the Human and Social Sciences School of the New University of Lisbon (FCSH-UNL), the Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon (ICS-UL), and the Portuguese Sociological Association (APS). The Opening Plenary Session, the Special Plenary Session and the Closing Plenary Session will take place at the Aula Magna of the University of Lisboa. The Local Organising Committee (LOC) Chair Helena Carreiras together with Anália Torres, Chair of the ESA Conference Committee, have worked day and night with members of their committee from different Portuguese universities to produce ultimate results.

The Lisbon conference will prove to be a stimulating forum for the exchange of ideas in a beautiful setting in southern Europe. The aim of the conference is to examine whether we can look at European society as an increasingly cohesive entity or whether divisions of nation, class, ethnicity, region, gender and other identities continue to be more salient. Traditionally, the nation state has been explicitly or implicitly the unit of analysis in European sociology. But is the nation state the most appropriate unit through which to explore European society or should we be trying to find other perspectives? This raises the issue of whether there is convergence or divergence between regions in the European area. At the Lisbon conference, sociologists from different countries and traditions will take a look at the role of sociology in helping to understand the entity we call "Europe".

Message from the President



The ESA Executive committee have been gearing up for the next conference in Lisbon 2-5th September, 2009. This looks to be the largest conference we have ever held and we hope that the ESA will increasingly be seen as a meeting place for European sociologists. The conference is designed to help us address key themes facing European sociologists with plenaries on how Europe is seen from inside and from outside and how sociology can make an impact upon society. There is also a round table discussion planned on the topic of the role of sociology at a European level.

The number of members of the ESA is growing fast, but so are its activities. You will be aware that the website has become a focus of communication (we are continually updating it and look forward to hearing your views on this). I will briefly outline some of our activities below.

The number of Research Networks is growing and so is their membership. Research Networks hold mid term conferences and run newsletters and home pages in addition to their activities at the conference, so you may want to sign up for some of their mailing lists (which is free). The ESA executive have been concerned

to establish better links between the Research Networks and the Association, so following a meeting at the last conference, we have a series of recommendations and proposals to ensure improved communication and integration. We have also raised the money available to research networks.

The paper newsletter has been replaced by a monthly e-bulletin containing relevant information

that can be easily accessed using an index. This will help to ensure regular circulation of information without bombarding you with a multitude of annoying emails, something which some of our members have complained about.

An ESA summer school was organised in July 2008 by Claire Wallace and Sokratis Koniordos together with the CINEFOGO Network of Excellence and the University of Crete on the topic of the Quality of Life. There were a large number of high quality applicants. Another ESA summer school is being organised prior to the conference by Elini Oinas of the Post-Graduate Committee of the Executive. We look forward to more of these events, which are important opportunities for doctoral students to network with one another and to present their work in a supportive environment.

We are looking at constructing an OPPORTUNITIES DATABASE where jobs and scholarships can be accessed by our members and where vacancies can be advertised on a regular basis. This is more than an administrative convenience. The creation of a common research area for European sociologists depends upon having an open labour

market and the opportunity for circulation and different points in a person's career. It will also help institutions to find and select the best candidates from the whole of Europe.

The journal "European Societies" continues to be an important place where sociologists can publish their work and is now internationally recognised.

We are looking forward to holding the next conference in Geneva in Summer 2011 and hope to bring you more news about this at the conference.

Normally the conference is the opportunity to increase membership fees. However, we will not increase the fees for ESA since it is important that our membership continues to grow and that people do not feel burdened by additional payments. However, we will need to make some adjustments for concessionary membership to reflect changing levels of prosperity across Europe.

We remain however, a very lean organisation with only a part-time secretary and small office in Paris. Many national associations enjoy far more extensive facilities and staff. The activities of the association therefore depend upon members volunteering their time and their talents and at least in this respect at least we have great wealth to draw upon! The activities that we are able to undertake depend upon the success of the conference, which can generate a surplus (from non-members) that enables us to carry out our various activities such as the summer school, the web-site, funding RN mid-term conferences etc..

We look forward to increasing the size and scope of our association in future and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support.

Claire Wallace
June 2009.



NATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATIONS

Following on from our previous feature on different national associations, this issue of "European Sociologist" focuses on Ireland.

By Brian Conway*

Although the origins of sociology in Ireland go back to the 19th century, the Sociological Association of Ireland was only established in 1973. An earlier sociological organisation, the Christus Rex Society, was established at the national seminary in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, in September 1941 and had a priest membership. On 5 May, 1973, Cyril White, Conor Word, and Joy Rudd organized a meeting in Newman House, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin, then home to University College Dublin, of about twenty sociologists, from north and south, with a view to establishing a disciplinary association. One of their first tasks was the election of a committee and the drafting of a constitution for the association. A standing committee including an elected president, chairperson, vice-chairperson, treasurer, secretary, and a six-person committee was also constituted. The first president, Hamish Dickie-Clarke, came from the then New University of Ulster, Jordanstown.

Some debate took place at this time about whether the organisation would follow a professional model or an intellectual model and what the name of the association would be. A number of possibilities were considered including the Irish Sociological Association and the Sociological Association of Ireland. The latter was chosen as the organisation's name in order to avoid confusion, and a shared acronym, with the International Sociological Association. The SAI set itself the goals of promoting sociology as a discipline in Ireland, representing the professional interests of its members, and promoting sociological research on or about Irish society. Its physical infrastructure has migrated between different university departments and research institutes and a volunteer executive committee and administrator has carried out its day-to-day activities.

The association's members came from across the island and one indicator of its early organisational success was a growing membership distributed across the categories of full, associate, honorary and student members. An inclusive definition of "sociologist" was adopted by opening membership to people who did not self-identify as sociologists and by not requiring university employment as a prerequisite. Organisational growth and development continued into the 1970s and 80s. In the difficult 1970s, the association established a sub-committee on labour market conditions for sociologists, but by the 1980s, it had taken several initiatives. In 1986, the association carried out a small-scale study to find out about postgraduate provision and produced

a report entitled "Postgraduate Sociology Studies in Irish Universities." An impressively detailed document, it laid out such things as fees, department specializations, facilities for postgraduate work, recent enrollment, and supervision policies. By this time, most of the universities offered postgraduate programmes in sociology at the Master's and doctorate levels and reported low staff-student ratios.

Discursive developments in the 1980s included a new book series on Irish society dealing with the topics of gender, crime, power and conflict, and culture and ideology. 1991 represented an important year for the SAI, marking the launch of its first journal, the Irish Journal of Sociology. Founding editors, Tony Fahey and Michel Peillon, took on co-ordinating responsibilities for the journal's inaugural issue and for the first three years of publication. The journal provided a new outlet for sociological writing on or about Ireland and published work in Irish and English. From 2009 the SAI's journal will be published by Manchester University Press.

In the 1980s there were few university positions for sociologists but in the 1990s the labour market began to improve considerably. Now sociology is taught as a degree subject to large numbers of students.

The main activity of the SAI since its founding, however, has been the organization of a lively annual conference. Rotating each year between the four provinces of Ireland, the conference provides a yearly showcase of some of the best sociological research by sociologists living in Ireland and sociologists abroad interested in Ireland.

The Sociological Association of Ireland has thus matured from an initial committee of literally a handful of people to a sizable organization of over a hundred card-carrying members. Over the years it has developed a code of ethics for research, launched its own journal, organized an annual conference, published booklets and monographs, and has recently gone online with its own dedicated website www.sociology.ie.

**Brian Conway is lecturer in the Department of Sociology, National University of Ireland Maynooth. Since 2006 he has been treasurer and executive committee member of the SAI. His research interests are: collective memory, sociology of religion, and the history of sociology.*

Letter To The NA's

Dear Friends from the National Associations,

I would like to thank you all for being active in proposing candidates for the next ESA Executive Committee and the President. The voting was launched on the 13th of July this year. Each ESA member in good standing has received a ballot list with instructions. Hopefully you are active in the voting process.

ESA is gaining acceptance and power as a professional association among social scientists in general and sociologists in particular in Europe. To date, 30 national associations have joined ESA and according to recent information, there are 1460 active members in good standing in the ESA intending to attend the coming conference.

Although day-to-day activities of ESA are organised in the form of Research Networks and Research Streams, the National Associations carry an important role in consultancy as well as in initiating science policy discussions about sociology and sociologists in Europe and beyond.

At the coming ESA 9th conference in Lisbon, the regular National Associations meeting will be held on the 2nd of September, on the very first day of the conference, at 19:00 to 21:00. The first hour and a half will be devoted to a Round Table, chaired by ESA outgoing President Claire Wallace. The Round Table will continue the science policy discussions over the internationalisation of sociology and its future developments initiated by National Associations Council in 2006.

I am extremely happy to inform you that Helga Nowotny, the Vice-President of the European Research Council (ERC) and Vice-Chair of the ERC Scientific Council has agreed to join the Round Table and will share information about the ERC, its working principles, strategies and current practices. Franc Mali, a Slovenian sociologist, whose research interests focus upon science policies, will speak about international orientation of social scientists and the East-West divide in social sciences. Two doctoral students, David Reimer and Steffen Schindler, will share their own experiences as early career researchers and will analyse their future career paths, by combining this with future developments of Sociology in Europe on one hand and science policy perspectives on the other. ESA Executive Committee member Pekka Sulkunen will raise the question whether to launch a European Social Science Forum.

The second part of the National Associations meeting will be devoted to regular issues - your feedback and problems related to the ESA. However, our most important task is to elect the next Chair of the National Associations Council. I therefore turn to all of you to request that you start the discussions about the candidates to the next chair. Could you please bring the names to the NAC meeting for open voting?

I am looking forward to your active participation in the NAC meeting on the 2nd of September in Lisbon.

Have a resourceful summer by gathering new energy and inspiration, and see you in Lisbon,

Yours,

Dagmar Kutsar,
Chair of National Associations Council and the ESA Nominations Committee



In this special opinion piece for "European Sociologist", Amitai Etzioni takes a look from outside Europe at the EU. Prof. Etzioni was Professor of Sociology at Columbia University for 20 years. Today, he is the Director of the Institute for Communitarian Policy Studies at the George Washington University, USA.

EU: Closing the Community Deficit*

The main challenge currently facing the EU is a community deficit: the low valuation the majority of its citizens accord the evolving collectivity. As considerable literature demonstrates, a substantial and seemingly growing number of European citizens are alienated from the EU project and EU institutions, and the EU is challenged by the mismatch between its increasing supranational decision making and the strong loyalties of its citizens to their respective nation states. To deal with this community deficit, the EU must adopt the following strong measures of community building, before further steps can be taken that significantly diminish national sovereignty.

I. Measures that reduce strain and alienation

(a) *Defer enlargement*: The EU needs to defer additional enlargement and negotiations for new membership for a decade to allow for consolidation. Enlargement strains the community in two significant ways: (i) increasing the numbers of any group renders collective decision making more difficult, and (ii) given the cultural, historical, political and linguistic differences between the current and potential members, further enlargement would increase the EU's already high level of heterogeneity, which is antithetical to community building. Only after reducing the current level of heterogeneity can more members be considered without further undermining community building.

(b) *Delay deepening*: Deepening entails exacting considerable sacrifices by some members of the collectivity which predominantly benefit others, and thus requires a higher level of citizen commitment to the EU than currently exists. For example, if stronger EU-wide measures were adopted to slow down inflation, some members would as a result likely experience slower growth while others might not be much affected. Such inequalities of burdens and benefits are routinely accepted within well established nations, however, if the beneficiaries are not considered parts of one's community, there is a much lower tolerance for such reallocations and wealth transfers. Given that the majority of the EU citizens seem not ready to make such sacrifices on a growing scale, deepening has to be delayed until community commitments are enhanced.

(c) *Slow down the Commission*: The EU institutions, especially the Commission, have acted on a significant number of occasions in ways that alienate the citizens from the EU project.

(i) Negotiations about major additions and changes to EU treaties and institutions have often been conducted in off the record meetings, employing highly legalistic and technical terms or obfuscating language. To reduce citizen alienation, important decisions are best preceded by a necessarily slower process of consensus-building (discussed below). Additionally, the EU Commission must become more transparent and cease introducing numerous EU-wide measures with little or no prior public notification, consensus-building, or even public disclosure after the fact.

(ii) The EU best dedicate more resources toward reducing the compliance gap, so that measures are enforced evenly in all nations and no nation's citizens feel exploited. This, in turn, may entail reducing the number of regulations and other measures the Commission can issue each year.

(iii) EU officials and national leaders who support the EU project must show respect for the people and the democratic process. Eleven nations broke promises to submit the Lisbon treaty to a referendum, and EU officials' habit of resubmitting a treaty for a vote soon after being voted down, with only minor modifications, gives the impression that some EU officials would like to repeatedly submit the same measures to the electorate until they get the desired result. These attitudes hurt the EU project. EU authorities would be advised not to promote policies and changes in institutions that the citizens of the EU have shown they reject.

II. Measures that build community

(a) Foster EU-wide public dialogues

Societies frequently engage in dialogues about public policies. These dialogues mainly concern values, are not dominated by considerations of facts, and can lead to new, widely shared public understandings. Such understandings, in turn, generate new sources of legitimacy and provide a

basis for changes in public policy and institutions.

That the majority of EU citizens feel ill informed about the EU and the actions of its institutions only enhances the need to promote dialogues. Public dialogues and some referendums do take place in Europe, but they are generally conducted within each nation. To build support for enhanced supranational institutions and EU decision making, public dialogues and referendums best take place in all member nations at the same time and be tied to decisions to be made on the EU level.

(b) Develop EU-wide media and language

Citizens see the EU largely through their respective national and cultural lenses. For a shift in orientation to occur, some form of a shared media is needed. The EU should create a sort of European Broadcasting Agency, modeled on the BBC, which would draw on public budgets, have autonomous control of the content of the broadcasts, and provide news and interpretations of news from a European perspective.

Additionally, an EU community would be much assisted if all the citizens would learn the same language. Historically, coming to share a language has played a key role in many community building endeavors. In the EU, though, reference is not to developing *one* primary tongue, *but to one in addition to it*, a common second language. English is the only serious candidate for this position, but so far many nations have strongly opposed this development.

(c) EU-wide voting

As EU consensus solidifies, the EU should move toward EU-wide voting on EU candidates, rather than the current system in which votes for the EU Parliament are still conducted largely for national candidates, on national bases.

III. Unprecedented, but...

There are strong reasons to doubt that the EU can be turned into a collectivity that has many of the elements of a national community. All previous attempts to form supranational communities have failed. When nations were forced into a federation, the federation came apart as soon as the coercive vise was broken.

One may suggest that history is rich with cases in which previously autonomous communities merged to form more encompassing ones. Germany was formed by the unification of some 39 independent states; Italy, by the unification of numerous provinces and areas. However, these instances of community building took place *before nationalism took root and before the masses became actively involved in the political process*. That is, before the sense of self and the identity of the citizens became deeply associated with their nation state.

If the EU is unable to engage in much stronger and more affirmative community building, if there is no significantly greater transfer of commitments and loyalties from the citizens of the member nations to the new evolving political community, the EU will be unable to sustain the kind of encompassing and salient collective public policies and endeavors it seeks to advance. The EU needs either to move up to a higher level of community, or retreat to being a free trade zone enriched by numerous legal and administrative shared arrangements, but not much more.



This article is based upon Amitai Etzioni's "Closing the Community Deficit in the EU", published by the Centre for European Policy Studies. For the full piece, see:

http://shop.ceps.eu/BookDetail.php?item_id=1702

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

In this section, Editor Shalva Weil turned to all the presidential candidates and asked them:

Why are you running for President of the European Sociological Association?



ANÁLIA TORRES – Portugal |
analia.torres@iscte.pt

Anália Torres is Professor in the Department of Sociology of ISCTE (Lisbon University Institute) and a research coordinator in CIES/ISCTE (Research Centre of Studies in Sociology) Lisbon. Since 1985 she has been coordinating courses at graduate and post graduate level on methodology and research design, family, gender. She created and coordinates, among others, a master's degree in Family and Society. She has been directing for long and within national and international research network research teams on family, gender, marriage, divorce, work and family, poverty, drug addition, youth and child protection, s. With fourteen books published (two more on print) she is sole author of four, first author of six – two of them in English - and co-author of other four. Author of around fifty articles and chapters of books in several languages. She was President of the Portuguese National Sociological Association (2002-2006) and is Vice President of the ESA (2007-2009). see: www.analiatorres.net

I have been teaching and researching sociology for the last 24 years – it is my vocation. I think that sociology can change our societies positively by helping to shape a more grounded citizenship through the production of knowledge and critical perspectives. Sociology does this both visibly by contributing to public debate and also less visibly by providing knowledge with which to inform public policies.

European sociology has improved both in quality and in quantity by becoming more interconnected. Comparative knowledge of European societies has been produced through networks and projects in which the ESA has played an important facilitating part.

Through my experience as President of the Portuguese Sociological Association, which is one of the largest sociological associations in Europe in the years 2002-2006, and as member of the Executive Committee of the European Sociological Association (2005-2007) and more recently as its vice-president (2007-2009), I think I am now in a good position to put forward some programmatic ideas.

I want to make our association a more inclusive space, recognized by each European sociologist as its natural home, a rich and diverse meeting place for exchanging knowledge and lively debate. Bearing in mind our previous history, I would like to propose and to discuss some ideas.

First of all, both the country diversity of our association – one of its most precious assets – and the need to renew the board and the President every two years, raise the problem of continuity and institutional “memory”. I would like to propose that the President be an office that renewable if desired for two successive terms, as is already possible with members of the Executive Committee. This would necessitate a change in the Statutes. This change should start in 2011, not affecting the next Presidency, but the one after that. Two years seems, in general, a rather short period of time to run the board and Presidents are mainly preoccupied with organising the forthcoming ESA Conference. Together with the Executive, the President should be able to define policies for a stronger association, one that is more than a federation of research networks.

My second proposal is to form a permanent Advisory Committee, constituted by ex-ESA Presidents and by representatives of ISA and other big regional associations. This committee should meet at least once in two years (profiting from the ESA conference) and should also help steer our Association.

Thirdly, I want to stress the importance some of the previous initiatives already launched. It seems crucial, among others, to develop: 1) our participation on the Initiative for Science, as well as all other initiatives to strengthen our role as scientific partners, a voice to be heard by the European Commission with respect to scientific policies, as well as partners within European Research Area. 2) a closer bridge with research networks – the core of our association – and help them increase ESA membership 3) closer links with national associations 4) initiatives such as offering our members an updated job database and keeping contacts with sociologists outside the academic field 5) initiatives to include more members from eastern and southern countries 6) a drive to increase our capacity for publication - perhaps by considering the case for a new journal.

DOMINIK ANTONOWICZ - Poland | dominik.antonowicz@uni.torun.pl

Dominik Antonowicz is a young Eastern European sociologist at the Institute of Sociology, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun (Poland) with academic experience of working in the Netherlands and the UK. His main research interest is focused on global trends in higher education and the social phenomenon of sport fandom. Since 2008 he also works as a full-time strategic adviser to the minister of science and higher education in Poland. He was actively involved in organization of the ESA Congress in Torun (2005) and as a spokesman of the ESA conference he was responsible for the public relations and media. He is concerned about the unity of European sociology and believes that ESA needs clearer vision for the future, stronger leadership and personal commitment to building solid institutional foundation for European Sociology. The positive change might be delivered only by a person with great enthusiasm, fresh look and strong personal determination, he is willing to offer.





PEKKA SULKUNEN - Finland | pekka.sulkunen@helsinki.fi

Currently a member of the ESA Executive Committee, Pekka Sulkunen is Professor of Sociology at the University of Helsinki, Finland. He has written or co-authored several books on social theory, cultural studies, addictions and preventive social policy. He is leading an international research consortium on images and concepts of addiction among experts, professionals and lay persons. He is President of The Westernmarck Society. Pekka sees ESA as an important platform for maintaining the disciplinary identity of sociology and its capacity to make intellectual sociological interventions. European society is and will be built on diversity and openness. Sociological theory and research must develop to cope with these critical factors of European future.

I had already participated in several ad hoc meetings of sociology of consumption years before the European Sociological Association was founded. I organized two of these in Finland with my colleagues. ESA was a natural home for this group. Sociology of consumption soon became one of the large RNs. Last year we organized the twentieth anniversary interim meeting of the RN in the original venue Hotel Vuoranta, Helsinki.

My experience and the impressive growth of its conferences have convinced me that the European Sociological Association arose from a real need. An important part of this need was to bring together academic sociology and researchers from specialized public and private research centres, often closely related to policy making. Most RNs welcome theoretical papers as well as work from policy oriented research, and this has been the explicit policy in the RN for consumption.

This collaboration reflects the historical mission that sociology has had in Europe as a companion and intellectual guide in the progress of modernity. The information infrastructures for monitoring social development are largely based on sociological concepts and methodologies. Explanatory models of social cohesion have been developed by sociologists and applied to resolve social conflicts and disintegration. Sociologists had a major role in the social reform movements to adjust institutions, legislation and policy to the needs of modern pluralistic and industrial society.

The relevance of sociological research has stemmed partly from its prognostic and problem-solving capacities. However, its principal contribution has been its intellectual function in interpreting, theorising and identifying social change. Sociologists have participated in critical assessment of social structures, power relationships, the mechanisms of equality and inequality, and alternative approaches to social institutions and problems.

The continuation of this contribution to European future depends on the successful integration of the research capacities and the intellectual role of the discipline. Many policy makers and even sociologists are today less optimistic about science in society than the academic generations of the post-war decades. The idea of the plan has been replaced by the idea of evaluation. Evaluation does not need sociological theory, and even specialization is less important than flexibility, efficiency and mobility from one policy area to another. Eminent scholars have claimed that in the global age the sociological concept of society, as we know it from the classics, has come to its end.

I see ESA as an important platform for maintaining the disciplinary identity of sociology and its capacity to make intellectual sociological interventions. European society is and will be built on diversity and openness. Sociological theory and research must develop to cope with these critical factors of European future. The previous Presidents, Executive Committees, conference organizers and the people who have served as coordinators and members of the RNs and Research Streams have done an excellent job in developing ESA into an organization that consolidates sociology's presence and visibility in the development of European society and European societies. This is a very good moment to continue in the same direction.

ELENA DANILOVA - Russia | elenadan@mtu-net.ru

Elena Danilova is a Head of department and lead researcher at the Institute of Sociology, Russian Academy of sciences (Moscow). Her research interests include social identities (national identity in particular) in a comparative perspective, methodology of comparative studies, social transformation in post-communist countries as well as social consequences of reforms in the area of labour relations and regulation of public-private sectors relations. She has conducted a number of international and national projects, including in the mentioned areas. Being a member of European Sociological Association she is willing to contribute by bringing to the debate the issues important in European societies, and by joining a collective voice of sociologists in public agenda. Currently she is active in ESA RN18 - Sociology of Communications and Media Research.



Sociology is like a complex music score created and performed in a collective way. There are many notes, diverse rhythms and melodies, but the most distinctive have to be the voices and themes that touch the most sensitive cords in the life of modern societies. The ESA which expresses the collective voice of sociologists needs to be heard across the European continent and the global world in a changing historical context.

Sociology has to respond to the hopes and challenges of the changing Europe. It is important that our sociological agenda expands to incorporate the issues of transition and integration of the "old" and "new" Europe, of diverse communities, and of people who seek new identities.

One of the functions of the ESA is to contribute to developing professional discourse. There is a vital need for major theoretical debates. Theory is especially important in times of crisis; sociologists will have to assess its impact on societies in the short and long-term perspective. The crisis-related agenda will have to transgress the boundaries of the academic field and go across to societies at large seeking for comparative research perspectives, and contributing to the public debate on most important social issues - such as issues of changing labor markets, health care and social policy, and risks and challenges posed by the world in times of economic downturn.

I see the need for the ESA to promote actively public sociology, transcending the academy and engaging with wider audiences. Here the agenda has to include a wider scope of issues related to women's rights, minorities, youth, people who are negatively affected by the crisis, by social change and change of identities. Their voices have to be heard by the public and by governments in all parts of the European continent. It is the European civil societies that will be primary beneficiaries of the discussion. It is also very important to give more space to the voices of young sociologists and students in Europe.

In brief, I see the role of the ESA in promoting vital agendas and debates by bringing together diverse voices of sociologists from Europe and beyond, helping get the results of these debates across to public at large and making societies aware of new challenges and the ways to confront them.

CANDIDATES FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2009-2011

(in alphabetical order)

HERE IS A LIST OF THE CANDIDATES! Carefully selected by the nominations committee of the ESA, on the basis of proposals made by members, RNs, and national sociological associations, there are four Presidential candidates, two female, two male (three of them also standing for the Executive committee) and 30 candidates for the Executive Committee, equally divided by gender and representing 19 different European countries.

All members of the ESA can vote before the Lisbon Conference by regular mail or at the conference itself for one Presidential candidate and a maximum of 10 Executive Committee candidates.

Your voting card and the ballot should arrive by snail mail. You should put (1) the voting card with your hand-written signature together with (2) the ballot including your votes closed in the small neutral envelope in the larger envelope and send to:

Gisele Tchinda,
ESA Secretariat,
59-61 rue Pouchet,
75017 Paris, France

TO ARRIVE BY THE LATEST ON AUGUST 27TH, 2009.

You can also bring your voting card to Lisbon and vote on the spot by putting the ballot into the voting box in the registration area, which will open on Thursday, September 3rd at 10:00 am and will close by noon on Friday, September 4th, 2009.



DOMINIK ANTONOWICZ - Poland | see candidates for the next ESA president, p.2

URSULA APITZSCH - Germany | apitzsch@soz.uni-frankfurt.de

Currently ESA Executive Committee member, Ursula Apitzsch is Professor of Political Science and Sociology at J.W. Goethe-University of Frankfurt/Main and Director of the Cornelia Goethe Centre for Women's and Gender Studies (CGC). She is also research fellow at the Frankfurt Institute of Social Research and has been the lead researcher in a considerable number of international research projects on migrant and marginalized groups.



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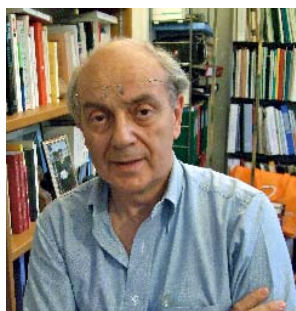


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PEKKA SULKUNEN - Finland | see candidates for the next ESA president, p. 2



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Research Networks

Research Networks: the Backbone of the ESA

Writes Consuelo Corradi, ESA Vice President and Chairperson of the ESA Research Networks Committee

Ever since their inception, the Research Networks (RNs) have been the backbone of the ESA. Their activities highlight the scientific work which is carried out in many different fields at a European level. In even years, mid-term conferences that are organized by the Research Networks gather sociologists around hot and provocative topics which challenge our discipline, inviting us to develop a more accurate understanding of contemporary societies. In odd years, the RNs meet at the well-attended ESA conferences, which gather thousands of sociologists from all over Europe, as well as from some non-European countries. The upcoming Lisbon Conference will have sessions organized by RNs. More than 3,000 paper proposals were sent to the on-line platform. In the years 2007-2009, the Executive Committee of the ESA and the RN committee strove to create better communication between the Networks and the Association. After the meeting in Glasgow in September 2007 with all the RN coordinators, we consulted the coordinators and kept them posted on relevant issues. Since Glasgow, three new Networks were cre-

ated: RN31 Ethnic Relations, Racism and Anti-Semitism, RN32 Political Sociology, and RN33 Women's and Gender Studies. Two already existing RNs, that had been inactive in the last years, were revamped: RN 23 Sexuality and RN 27 Regional Network on Southern European Societies.



ESA has limited resources, but one of the top priorities was to finance the mid-term Conferences organized by the RNs during 2008. We supported 16 mid-term Conferences which were organized in Austria, Denmark, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, and the UK. The new website, which

was launched in November 2007, offers pages to each RN free. It integrates RNs into a single ESA framework, developing a sense of belonging to the scientific community of European sociologists, which today is wide and articulate. All the RNs coordinators were asked to join ESA, and I am happy to say that the few of them who were not are now members in good standing. The Executive Committee has also developed a policy to improve integration between the Networks and the Association. Our Secretariat circulated an outline policy in December 2008. The main feature is to ask each ESA member to join one or more Network, and pay a small fee for this. This money will be available to the Networks for their activities. Starting September 2010, Networks will be asked to have a minimum number of members in good standing. In Lisbon, we will have an opportunity to discuss these and other issues. On Wednesday September 2, from h. 14 to h. 15.30, a meeting is scheduled between the RN Coordinators and the ESA Executive Committee. On behalf of the entire Executive, I can say that we look forward to a fruitful and stimulating dialogue.

A New ESA Research Network on Women's and Gender Studies

by Ursula Apitzsch and Marie-Thérèse Letablier

At the ESA Executive Committee meeting in Paris in October 2008, the idea of establishing women's and gender studies research network in the ESA was raised as an urgent need. Several committee members reported that they had been approached by colleagues saying that the ESA does not offer a platform for more general Gender or Women's Studies interests, or explicitly Feminist Sociology. They claimed that the situation had alienated a large number of active sociologists from ESA. Several previous ESA conferences had organized ad hoc groups on gender issues in Europe. This was not easy because there was no broader gender platform. RN 14 "Gender Relations in the Labour Market and the Welfare State" helped to formulate sessions on the influence of state and labour market policy on men's and women's social conditions. Still, there remained the need for a RN on broader as well as complementary issues, such as gender justice and gender order, the social crisis of human reproduction, the consequences of the care drain and the changing gender relations in transnational migration processes. Therefore, many ESA members supported the proposal of a research network on gender Studies on condition that it would in no way conflict with the special research interests of existing RNs, but on the contrary it would cooperate in multifaceted ways with them in possible joint session in future ESA conferences.

However, a lively discussion on the adequate name of the RN ensued. The consensus was that it is important to take into account the debates within the field, the contexts, and

geographical histories of the discipline and genealogies of the naming process. For example in the rather homogeneous Nordic field, recently the name of the most important journal in this field, „NORA“, was changed from „Nordic Journal of Women's



Studies" to „NORA - Nordic Journal of Feminist and Gender Studies". In addition, it was also argued that the main focus of the new RN should be the study of the relationship between men and women, and that it also should include studies of men and masculinity. While a consensus on this was commonly shared, the conclusion was not drawn that

the new RN should just be called "Gender Studies". For years, feminists had tried to explain that it would not be adequate to study men and women in a binary manner by doing men's studies on the one hand, and women's studies on the other, but that the subject of gender studies should be existing gender relations shaped by unequal power conditions and that, of course, within these gender relations the construction of masculinity is a very important issue. It was argued that the gender order like we know it today in Europe and in the global world is still a gender order that disadvantages women on a big scale. Obviously, the field of women's studies is still a very important field for sociology. In the end, the majority of the Executive Committee voted for the name "Women's and Gender Studies".

A large, impressive list of ESA members and supporters from universities and Women's Studies' Centres in Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Norway, Italy, Israel, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and UK was presented to the Executive Committee during the months of November and December 2008. In January 2009, the new RN, now RN 33, was included in the Call for papers for the Lisbon conference. The success of this call was overwhelming: more than 100 abstracts were submitted to the RN before the deadline. Of these, 78 were accepted for oral, paper or poster presentations. In the upcoming ESA conference in September, there will be nine parallel sessions i.e. 18 sessions in the "Women's and Gender Studies" RN.

There are an increasing number of collaborative European research projects. In this new feature, "European Sociologist" takes a close look at the key findings of one of these – Workcare.

Workcare: Social quality and Changing Relationships Between Work, Care and Welfare in Europe: Key Findings

The Workcare project, a cross-European study funded by the European Union, has furnished important new findings which provide pointers for developing public policy in the European Union. The recommendations made by the expert project team provide the basis for evidence-informed public policy to improve the lives of Europeans and enable the realisation of key policy objectives.

The objectives of the Workcare project were to:

- To describe and explain a Europe-wide patterning of welfare, work and care using a variety of methods and sources.
- To develop and apply a social quality perspective, enabling a synthesis of macro and micro levels of analysis.
- To understand the nature and impact of European level policies for work and care.
- To explain the transitions between work and care on a comparative basis.
- To understand how households make decisions about work and care.

policies have impacted upon the organisation of work and care.

EU Policy is concerned to encourage as many people as possible, women as well as men, to be in the workforce combined with a commitment to policies to encourage an equal balance between men and women in paid employment and unpaid caring work. There is also concern to promote a high quality of life for the whole population and a commitment to promote equality of opportunity for men and women. Concerns about an aging population and the low fertility rate have also led to concerns about how to maintain high rates of employment with family building. This raises questions about how these policy objectives can be achieved especially when some of them seem to be in conflict with others.

How do we enable families with young children to combine work and care, to promote

equality of opportunity for mothers and fathers and enable all members of the family to enjoy a high quality of life? This project, carried out by an expert team of social scientists from seven European countries, was designed to explore how families with young children could best be supported by public policies to enable them to combine work and care and enjoy a high quality of life.

The research was carried out between 2005 and 2009 through:

- Analysis of cross-European data sets to provide the "big picture" of European patterns of work and care
- Analysis of childcare, flexibility and workplace policies at both national and European level
- In-depth interviews with a cross-section of countries having contrasting traditions of work and care: Denmark, the UK, Poland, Hungary, Austria, Portugal and Italy

Key findings

- The most comprehensive and successful childcare policies were found in those countries where children were regarded as the responsibility of society as a whole rather than only a private matter for families. Public policies should support families in carrying out their responsibilities as parents including meeting the social and cognitive development needs of children.
- There is a cross European trend for dual earner families to emerge as a normal pattern among parents, irrespective of the dominant social attitudes prevailing and the extent to which public policies and work places are family friendly. This is congruent with European public policy which is to encourage all individuals of working age, men and women to be in paid employment. However, it produces particular strains and pressures on those living in countries without substantial state supported childcare and for those who cannot afford paid support.
- Policies are often gender blind. It is important that a gender perspective is taken and a gender impact analysis of all new policies and recommendations. In particular policies should consider supply side as well as demand side of employment policies. Unless

policies take account of the gendering of supply side factors policies may have unintended or unanticipated consequences. Examples of this are flexicurity policies which may result in flexibility without security for women and entitlement to paternity leave which is not taken.

- There are differences between having rights and claiming them. Whilst in some countries people who have rights to parental leave or to stay at home with a sick child show no hesitation in claiming them (this is especially the case in the Nordic countries). In other countries where there are rights to leave, people hesitate to claim them, thinking that this will disadvantage them at work. Therefore, it is important that rights are not just granted but that they are also claimed by parents.

- Some of the countries with the highest fertility rates in Europe are those where public policies enable parents to combine paid employment with care for their children.

- Countries with the greatest degree of public childcare support for children under the age of 3 are the ones which also have the greatest continuity of employment for men and women over time. In countries that have opted

for extended childcare leave instead (such as Austria and Hungary for example) it is often difficult for women to re-enter the workforce after having children and these policies tend to reinforce traditional gender roles.

- Men and women are independent citizens but policies must recognize that mothers and fathers have joint responsibilities for the family and develop negotiated strategies to enable them to carry out these responsibilities.

- Flexicurity policies often provide flexibility and security for men but only flexibility for women. This has a negative impact on women's access to employment, opportunities for support in re-entry to the labour market and economic and employment security across the life course.

- The extent to which people could control their work and care arrangements differed by social class. Better educated parents have a wider range of choices about how they organise work and care and generally prefer a joint earner strategy and formal, professional childcare. This is related to a greater command over financial resources and suggests that the options available to many parents are constrained by lack of financial resources. Many professional and managerial workers

also have more flexibility in how they organise their work and the option of working at home for at least part of the time. By contrast, these are options that those in working class jobs do not have. One of their only ways to combine work and care in full time jobs where substantial childcare provision was not available was to work a parental shift system – one parent being present for part of the time and the other available the rest of the time.

- In all parts of Europe, the family is seen as important and family life is seen as a priority. Parents see family life as important in securing a high quality of a life and want to have quality time with their family.

- Fathers are substantially involved in caring for their children and want to be more involved. However, they are not always able to do so. This is often related to the long hours fathers have to work to support their families, to their higher earnings compared with their wives and to employer and societal attitudes not being supportive of fathers caring. Mothers may also need to accept that fathers can do caring work.

- Across Europe kin and friends provide important support and grandparents provide an important resource in emergencies, although in those countries without a good provision of affordable childcare there is a

higher reliance on kin. Families without kin to support them face especial difficulties.

Kin are an important resource for enabling parents to make choices, the unavailability of kin makes it more difficult for parents to combine paid employment with care.

- All parents are greatly concerned about the cognitive and educational development of children. They want quality care by professionals that takes account of the changing needs of children as they grow older as well as the knowledge and skills to support the cognitive development of their children.

- There is a shortage in many European countries of good quality affordable child care especially for children under three years. Pre-school and school provision for children over three years is often for short hours and does not meet the needs of parents when both are in paid employment.

- In the absence of affordable childcare it is generally women who take time out of the labour market to care and take on part time, insecure employment to enable caring commitments to be fulfilled. This is a result of a number of factors including ideologies of care, normative expectations, the attitudes of employers and the gender pay gap. This has life time consequences for women's economic security and opportunities to have a career.

- All European countries have legal provi-

sion for maternity leave, paternity leave and parental leave. However the length of leave for mothers and fathers varies considerably as does the level of remuneration. Paternity leave tends only to be taken up when it is non-transferable and provides a high level of compensation and is under-utilised despite the professed wishes of fathers to spend more time with their children.

- There is a common European view as to what provides for a high quality of life – a view which is shared by men and women and across the life course. Europeans want a decent standard of living, an orderly society, to be socially integrated and to be empowered to take control over their own lives. This provides an important backdrop against which to develop public policies designed to support families.

- It is possible to identify a number of welfare regimes in terms of the ways they support (or not) parents combining paid employment with their caring responsibilities. These different regimes have very different consequences for how parents organise work and care and especially impact on women. However, all regimes have a negative impact on women's employment careers and lifetime earning potential and men's opportunities to care for their children. Some have a more negative impact than others.

Work-care Regime	Spending on Childcare	Key Features ²
Extensive Family Policy	Sweden (3.1%) ³ , Denmark (3.9%), Belgium (2%), France (2.5%)	High level childcare 0 -3 years, with generous payment of parental leave. High proportion women working part-time
Short leave, Part -time	UK (1.7%), Netherlands (1.2%)	Short period of poorly paid parental leave, low provision of public childcare for 0 – 3 year olds and high proportion of mothers working part-time.
Long Leave Part-time	Germany (2.9%), Austria (3.0%), Luxembourg (3.9%)	Long period of relatively well –paid parental leave followed by mothers who do return to the labour market working part-time.
Family Care	Estonia (1.7), Slovenia (2.0), Spain (0.7%), Latvia 1.2%), Greece 1.7%), Italy (1.2%), Portugal (1.3%)	Period parental leave varies but badly paid . Mothers generally withdraw from the labour market and do not return when their children are older.
Extended Parental Leave¹	Hungary (2.5%), Poland (0.9%), Czech Republic (1.6%), Lithuania (1.1%), Finland (2.9%)	Long period of parental leave with women returning to full-time employment when they have exhausted their entitlement to leave. Finland deviates somewhat as there is a greater provision of public care for 0-3 year olds and more women working part-time.

1. Bulgaria also has this regime but was not included in the Workcare analysis.

2. Part-time work is working less than 30 hours a week. In the Scandinavian countries, including Finland, part-time is generally relatively secure long-part-time whereas in the UK, Netherlands, Germany and Austria many women work in short-part-time jobs which with the exception of those in the Netherlands are often marginal and insecure.

3. Figure in brackets % GDP spent on Family policy

In terms of research findings, the extensive family policy regime comes closest to one which is likely to meet European policy objectives and the aspiration parents have for combining paid employment and caring. In this respect, an important finding is that the extensive family policy model is not invariably the most expensive option, the long leave, part-time and extended parental leave models are comparable in costs. The 'cheap' alternatives are when there is a very low level of public support for families. The highest level of public investment in supporting families is in Denmark (3.9% GDP) and the lowest level in Spain (0.7% GDP). However, the levels of investment are much the same in Sweden (3.1% GDP) which provides high levels of support for families to work and care and Austria (3%) which encourages fathers to have paid employment and mothers to become full-time careers. The costs of the extended family leave model are not much below the costs of the extensive family care model (in effect long leave for mothers).

Workcare on the internet - <http://www.abdn.ac.soci/research/nec/workcare/>

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STUDENT SUMMER SCHOOLS

The ESA official student Summer School on "European Society or European Societies?" will share the venue of their pre-congress with another student miniconference, the initiative of three separate Research Networks, thereby creating additional opportunities for networking among PhD students. The summer schools will take place at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Faculdade de Ciências Sociais.



Summer School 2009 in Lisbon: "European Society or European Societies?"

Elina Oinas

Chair of the ESA post-graduate committee

The next ESA Summer School will be held right before the ESA Conference in Lisbon, from 29 August-1 September 2009.

Out of 80 applicants from all over Europe and the world, 26 excellent PhD students were selected. The group has both similar and diverse interests, and we look forward to an exciting summer school. The teachers during the Summer School will be Claire Wallace, Pekka Sulkunen, Ursula Apitzsch, Sokratis Koniordos and Elina Oinas. The two day program will consist of lectures, seminars with student presentations, and social events. The Summer School is hosted by the Universidade Nova de Lisboa.

The aim of the Summer School is to gather PhD students from all over Europe to consider whether we can look at Europe as an increasingly cohesive entity or whether divisions of nation, class, ethnicity, region, gender, and so on continue to be more salient. Traditionally, the nation state has been explicitly or implicitly the unit of analysis in European sociology. But is the nation state the most appropriate unit through which to explore European society or should we be trying to find other perspectives? This raises the issue of whether there is convergence or divergence between regions in the European area. A particular focus of the Summer School will be upon the role of sociology in helping to understand the European area and how sociologists from different countries and different traditions can work together to meet this challenge. We will focus specifically upon four areas: religion, culture and diversity; gender; migration; family; and European welfare states.

The large number of high quality applications to the Summer School was an indication of a promising future for sociology in Europe. Unfortunately, we were unable to accommodate all interested applications, but we hope that there will be other ESA events and other Summer Schools from which PhD students across Europe can benefit. The selection criteria we used this time took into account a balance between the quality of the student's proposal, the qualifications of the candidate, the plan's relevance to the summer school theme, and geographical and gender diversity.

STUDENT MINICONFERENCE IN LISBON

The Research Network Sociology of Culture, in cooperation with the RN Qualitative Methods and the RN Sociology of Arts, has organized a Student Mini-conference in Lisbon from 31st August-1st September, 2009, just before the ESA Conference. The goal is to feature a mini-summer school on a European level, to bring doctoral students to Lisbon and encourage them to visit the ESA-Conference thereafter. A total of 65 students have applied.

The topic is: Arguing with evidence in studying culture & the arts. PhD students studying culture, arts, or everyday life will get together to reflect on the question of evidence in their research. Guiding questions are: In what sense are your interpretations based on evidence? How do you present your data to support your arguments, and is it possible for the reader to test or challenge your interpretations? In what way are your research results generalizable, or what is their relevance beyond the case you are studying? These and other related questions will be tackled during the miniconference, both in lectures and in parallel workshops in which the participants have the possibility to introduce their own studies and to get feedback on them.

Organizers:

Pertti Alasuutari, Rudi Laermans and Thomas S. Eberle

Speakers:

Pertti Alasuutari (Univ. of Tampere), On the meaning and use of evidence in social research.

Aleidis Devillé (Univ. of Leuven), Qualitative data analysis using QCA-method (Qualitative Comparative Analysis).

Paul Atkinson (Cardiff Univ.), Ethnographies of performance.

Giampietro Gobo (Univ. of Milan), Politics of evidence: accounting and validation in qualitative research.

Anssi Peräkylä (Univ. of Helsinki), Reliability and validity in research based on tapes and transcription.

Hubert Knoblauch (TU Berlin), Visual evidence and video analysis.

ESA Early Career Prize!

This is a new prize for early career scholars who will present a paper at the Lisbon ESA Conference 2009. The winner will be awarded a prize of 1000 euro, free participation at the ESA 2011 conference, including travel (max 350 euro), accommodation and registration fee, as well as honorary ESA membership for two years, including the journal *European Sociologist*.

An early career scholar is here defined as a student or a maximum of five years from the receipt of his/her PhD.

All eligible candidates are welcome to submit a full paper by October 15th 2009. The paper should be submitted electronically to the ESA Secretary, with a short biographical note on a separate sheet (max 2,500 characters). The writer should indicate in which panel the paper was presented at the Lisbon conference. The length of the paper is maximum 6000 words including references. Style should follow roughly the European Societies instructions for authors. The language of the article is the language in which the paper was presented in Lisbon.

Criteria for selection: the quality of the article only.

The winner will be announced at the ESA 2011 Conference.

For more information:

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What's New?

In this issue of "European Sociologist" we investigate the idea behind the website and invite all our readers to take part in this new global, initiative of sharing sociological knowledge and thoughts across national borders.

What is Sociologically.net?

By Lars Damgaard

MA student of Sociology at University of Copenhagen

The idea behind Sociologically.net is simple. It's first and foremost a professional social platform allowing people to discuss all things related to sociology with like-minded people from all over the world.

The philosophy behind the website is that there are thousands of people in the world, who occupy themselves with the exact same thoughts, texts, methods and ideas without ever getting in touch, except perhaps on academic conferences or as visiting scholars or as exchange students. But with Sociologically.net it's not only possible to get in touch with people who are interested in sociology, but also to stay in touch. Sociologically.net thus allows for the exchange sociological knowledge across borders.

The vision of Sociologically.net is therefore simply to connect the global world of sociologists, sociology students (or anyone else who takes an interest in sociology) with the aim of discussing sociological issues of all kind.

And it's free!

What's in it for me?

The obvious advantage of signing up at Sociologically.net is that you get a unique and lasting chance to develop your sociological ideas in a qualified forum, which is not limited to a national, regional or local setting.

Perhaps you have a working paper, a dissertation or a chapter for a book that you would like other people to comment on. Or maybe you are stuck in some advanced statistical modelling or research design - or perhaps you just need a helping hand to understand a complex theoretical argument or maybe you find yourself in the mood for a discussion of the epistemological scopes of social constructionism - what we make of Sociologically.net is up to us and the sum of our sociological imaginations! So whatever your sociology errands and thoughts might be, please feel free to share them with an ever-growing sociological public at Sociologically.net

The ESA wishes Sociologically.net the best of luck and hopes to see a lot of European sociologist and sociology students joining the sociological community at Sociologically.net

UACES

Does your research have an emphasis on Europe? If so, you may be interested in UACES, the University Association for Contemporary European Studies

UACES is directly involved in promoting research and teaching in European Studies as well as bringing together academics with practitioners active in European affairs. UACES has over 900 individual members and over 95 'Group' members (university departments, institutions and organisations).

Our current activities include:

- Publishing journals and books, including the *Journal of Common Market Studies* and the UACES-Routledge Contemporary European Studies book series.

- Providing funding to support Collaborative Research Networks (CRNs).

- Organising a number of events for our members, including an Annual Conference and a Brussels seminar series.

- Maintaining a website detailing our activities and financial awards (www.uaces.org).

- Running a searchable, online database of experts (www.ExpertOnEurope.com).

- Producing a quarterly newsletter and maintaining a members' email list.

- Supporting postgraduate students through fieldwork scholarships and travel bursaries.

- Providing funding for our members' events.

- Awarding a number of prizes, including Best Book, Best PhD Thesis, and a 'Reporting Europe' journalism prize in conjunction with Thomson Reuters.

Current Officers:

Chair (as of Sept. 2009): Prof Richard Whitman (University of Bath).

Prof Alex Warleigh-Lack (Brunel University) - until 09/09.

Secretary: Dr Amelia Hadfield (University of Kent).

Treasurer: Dr Jenny Fairbrass (University of Bradford).

UACES Student Forum

UACES also has an active Student Forum, run by a small committee of postgraduate students.



The students maintain their own email list and website (www.uacesstudentforum.org). The UACES Student Forum arranges a research conference and a teaching conference, and has its own open-access journal--JCER | *Journal of Contemporary European Research* (www.jcer.net).

Exchanging Ideas on Europe 2010

This event is an opportunity to present your research and to interact with an audience from a broad range of European related disciplines. The conference will be hosted by the College of Europe and will feature opportunities to enjoy the medieval city of Bruges, known as the 'Venice

of the North'.

The Call for Papers opens in September 2009 with the submission deadline for abstracts in January 2010. We encourage contributions from members of ESA. Please visit www.uaces.org/bruges/ for further information.

Collaborative Research Networks

To help promote the exchange of ideas on Europe, UACES has launched a new funding stream for 'Collaborative Research Networks (CRNs)'.

The successful networks will receive up to £5,000 over a three year period.

Core CRN activities:

- Organise research meetings and workshops.
- Propose UACES Annual Conference panels.
- Maintain a visible and up-to-date web presence and email network, in accordance with the guidelines of the host institution.
- Members will act as referees for Annual Conference panel paper and/or panel proposals if required.
- Generate contributions to UACES' various publications, as appropriate.

The call for applications will open later this year. UACES encourages contributions from a variety of disciplines, including sociology.

Please visit www.uaces.org/networks/ for further information.

LISBON-HERE WE COME!

Legend has it that Ulysses founded Lisbon, although it was more probably the Phoenicians.

- In 714 the powerful Moors arrived and held out against Christian attacks for over 400 years.
- By 1147, the Moors' luck had turned and the Christian Crusaders recaptured Lisbon.
- In the 16th century, Portugal celebrated its short-lived golden era of sea exploration, when riches were brought home from across the oceans.
- In the late 17th century the discovery of gold in Brazil enabled Lisbon to enjoy another luxurious period, but this time it was cut short by the massive earthquake in 1755 which reduced the city to rubble.
- In 1910 the monarchy fell and the first Portuguese Republic was proclaimed.
- In 1926, a military coup reduced Portugal to a period of totalitarian regime under the dictator António Salazar.
- The costly colonial wars in the 1960's and 1970's within Portuguese African territories, led to the "Carnation Revolution", a nearly bloodless military coup on 25 April 1974.
- The new government instituted democratic reforms and granted independence to the African colonies in 1975.
- In 1986 Portugal became a full member of the European Union.



Lisbon's location, spread over seven undulating hills overlooking the river Tejo, lured traders and settlers alike. Today, Lisbon continues to be an attractive tourist, historical and cultural site. Medieval Alfama is the charming oldest part of the city with its maze-like streets, crowned by the impressive Castelo de São Jorge. The Baixa's commercial avenues lie just below. The elegant Chiado shopping area climbs away up another hill, next to Bairro Alto, home to much of Lisbon nightlife. The westernmost part of the city, Belém, was the birthplace of the Age of Discoveries. Parque das Nações (the 98 World Expo site) in the northeast side of the city is an area full of 21st century avant-garde architecture built on the banks of the river. The ESA welcomes you to Lisbon, ancient city and home to our forthcoming conference!

Submitting material for the Newsletter

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

If you have material which you would like to see included, or an article or feature you would like to submit, please send it to the Editor, Dr. Shalva Weil at msshalva@mscc.huji.ac.il.

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

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

The newsletter charges for commercial advertisements only. The current fees are:

For an advert:

For non-profit organisations:

* 200 EUR for a full page

(and smaller adverts pro rata)

* 100 EUR for half a page (and so on).

For commercial organisations

(such as publishing houses):

* 400 EUR for a full page

* 200 EUR for a half page

ESA Secretariat

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