

Report on the First European Conference of Sociology

The first European Conference on Sociology was held in the University of Vienna, August 26-29 1992.

1 Programme

The title of the conference was 'Sociological Perspectives on a Changing Europe: Paradoxes of Socioeconomic, Political and Cultural Transformation'. The breadth and the focus of the successful conference theme are illustrated by the topics of the panels and the plenary speakers.

Panels were held on the following themes:

- The Economic Integration and Cultural Identity of Europe
- Europe and the Global World Economy
- Religion - Secularization - Changes of Value
- Environmental Problems
- Restructuring of European Peripheries
- Europe and the Others
- Feminism and Citizenship
- Changing Family Structures and New Forms of Living Together
- Migration Processes in Europe - Emergence of new Minorities
- Gender Relations and the Labour Market
- Class Structure and Stratification
- Communication in the Making of European Culture

Plenary Speakers included:

Johan Galtung 'The Emerging European Super Nationalism'
Jiri Musil
Salvadore Giner 'The Advent of Europe'
Peter Flora
Zsuzsa Ferge 'The Changes for Social Development in East Central Europe'
Anthony Giddens 'Democracy and Development in Europe'
Wlodzimierz Wesolowski 'Post-communist Transition to Democracy: It Peculiar Features in Theoretical Perspective'
Martin Albrow 'Local Ills and Global Remedies: Presentiments for European Sociology in the British Experience'
Luciano Gallino 'Digging up the present: orientations and reorientations of sociological research in italy'
Helga Nowotny 'The Unfinished Agenda of Modernization - Towards a European Sociology'

2 Participation in the Conference

Six hundred and two people participated in the First European Conference of Sociology drawn from over 25 countries including: Spain, Belgium, Estonia, Russia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Switzerland, Greece, Poland, Croatia, France, Slovenia, Turkey, Norway, Italy, Finland, Denmark, Austria, Great Britain, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Netherlands, Germany.

3 Organisation and finance

The international organising committee was composed of:

David Lane (Chair, Great Britain), Max Haller (Chair, Austria), Thomas P Boje (Treasurer, Denmark), Giandomenico Amendola (Italy), Ayse Gunes-Ayata (Turkey), Michael Illner (Czechoslovakia), Wladyslaw Kwasniewicz (Poland), Rudolf Richer (Austria).

The conference was hosted by the Austrian Association of Sociology. The local organising committee was composed of: Rudolf Richter (Chair), Eva Cyba (Secretary), Elisabeth Jandl-Jager (Co-Chair), Max Haller (Co-Chair) Holga Nowotny (Co-chair), Roland Pohoryles

The European Sociology conference was pleased to receive funding from a variety of sources, including many European national Sociological associations. Significant sums were raised in Austria from the Ministry of Science and the City of Vienna largely for supporting participation by Sociologists from East and Central Europe. The largest single source of funds were the fees paid by participants themselves.

4 Meetings to set up a European Sociological Association

(a) Meeting of representatives of national sociological associations.

Thursday August 27th 1992, 17.45-19.15, Grosser Festsaal der Universitat Wien.

Present: representatives of national associations:

1. Jacek Wasilewski (Poland)
2. Manuel Perez-Yruela (Spain); also Salvador Giner, Barcelona;
3. Rene Levy (Switzerland)
4. Giandomenico Amendola (Italy); also Luciano Gallino, presidents AIS; Mauro Palumbo, board member AIS
- 5. Bernhard Schäfers (president, German Sociol. Ass.)
6. Yossifon Assen (vice pres., Bulgaria)
7. Jaap Dronkers (Netherlands)
8. Tone Flotten (Norway)
9. Robert Miller (Northern Ireland)
10. Mojca Novak (Slovenia)
11. Georgy Davidjuk (Byelorussia; vice pres.)
12. Valery Mansourov (Russia, vice pres. of Russian Sociol.Soc.)
13. Pekka Sulkune (Finland)
14. Thomas Boje (Denmark, vice pres.); also Helge Hvid
15. Steve Ontram (Great Britain)
16. Sabine Erbes-Sequin (France)
17. Michal Illner (Czech Soc. Ass.)
18. Juraz Schenk (Slovak Soc. Ass.)
19. Birsen Gökce (Turkish Soc. Ass., president)
20. Rieta Bajaruniene, Lithuania
21. Nikos Fakiolas (Greece, president)
22. Göran Therborn, Sweden
23. Katrin Paadam, Estonia
24. NN, Croatia
25. Oldis Paulins, Latvia
26. György Csepely (Hungary)

The following were present from other associations:

Lorenzo Navarrete and Miguel Angel Ruiz de Azua, Colegio de Ciencias Politicas y Sociologia;
Lucio Luisson, Societa Italiana di Sociologia (president);
Ben-Rafael Elitzer, Israeli Soc. Ass.;
The International Sociological Association was represented by Daniel Bertaux, Vice-president;

From the International Program Committee of the European Sociology conference the following were present:
Giandomenico Amendola, Max Haller, David Lane, Wladyslaw Kwasniewicz, Ayse Günes-Ayata, Rudolf Richter, Thomas Boje, Michal Illner.

Introduction and Chair: David Lane

This meeting welcomed the development of a European Sociological Association. It discussed the organisation of the conference at Vienna; the planning of future conferences, including expressions of interest in organising them; the relationship of the national associations to the new European Association.

It agreed to set up a steering committee to establish a European Sociological Association. All associations were asked to nominate candidates for a steering committee.

(b) Open Meeting of conference participants on the setting up of a European Sociological Association.
August 28 1992, Grosser Festsaal, Wien.

Present: 80-100 persons, drawn from conference participants, including representatives of national associations.

Introduction and Chair: David Lane

Discussion of the setting of a European Sociological Association. Agreed to proceed with the establishment of such an association. Steering committee: extra nominations from the floor were added to those from the national associations.

(c) Steering Committee meeting, Saturday 29 August, Wien.

Attendance: The list of people who composed the steering committee was sent in the letter sent previously.

Introduction and Chair: David Lane
Minutes Secretary: Sylvia Walby

A sub-committee structure was devised and terms of reference for each were agreed. The three main groups were:
Statutes: to bring forward suggestions for a constitution;
Activities: to plan activities for the association, including the next conference;
Finance and organisation: to develop a financial strategy.
These sub-committees would consult and report back to the next meeting of the steering committee in February 1993 in Vienna.